

**VAIL & VICKERS LETTER BOOK**  
**June 5, 1903-July 19, 1905**

Abbreviations used are as follows:

- CA (California)
- JVV (John Van Vickers)
- WLV (Walter L. Vail)
- LA (Los Angeles)
- SB (Santa Barbara)
- SF (San Francisco)
- SRI (Santa Rosa Island)

Unlike with the Santa Cruz Island Company letter books, no mention is made of language. All letters are in English.

Vickers, John Van, Walter L. Vail, and Alex Mills. **Letters.**

Los Angeles: June 5, 1903-July 19, 1905.

Typescript with a minority of letters in manuscript, 1002 sheets of copy paper (of which 588 are used) + index section (used), black cloth with roan spine and tips, label with company name on upper cover. This volume includes typewritten letters by a Vail & Vickers employee, Alex Mills. Mills signed his name to some letters; others he signed "Vail & Vickers" with "M" below; yet others do not have the "M" but are attributed based on the handwriting of the "Vail & Vickers" signature. Likewise, some typewritten letters signed "Vail & Vickers" are attributed to JVV, based on the signature being in his hand. Beginning at Sheet 141 another employee appears, with the initials "R.C." below the "Vail & Vickers" signature. There are a few letters for which I could not make a confident attribution; these are listed simply as "Vail & Vickers."

#### Sheet 1

From JVV, LA to R.C. Sloan, [Globe, Arizona], June 5, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Purchase and transport of cattle.

#### Sheet 2

From JVV, LA to B.F. Parks, Safford, Arizona, June 5, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Transport of cattle. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 3

From JVV, LA to Capt. J.G. Prescott, (no place given), June 6, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: "Mildred E."

"We would like the anchor and chain of the Mildred E if you will have same put on Santa Barbara wharf subject to our order. Soon we will get same and pay you \$25."

#### Sheets 4-5

From JVV, LA to Baker Brothers, Hachita, New Mexico, June 6, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Purchase and transport of cattle.

#### Sheet 6

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, [Los Alamos, CA], June 8, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle sales.

#### Sheets 7-8

From JVV, LA to J.S. Rector, (no place given), June 8, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (inquiry as to whether Rector would like the job of operating the engine).

#### Sheet 9

From JVV, LA to Seaman Field, (no place given), June 9, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Prospective purchase of cattle.

#### Sheet 10

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, [Los Alamos, CA], June 10, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Cox's need for hay.

#### Sheets 11-12

From JVV, LA to R.C. Sloan, [Globe, Arizona], June 11, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Purchase and transport of cattle.

#### Sheet 13

From JVV, LA to W.J. (last name indistinct), (no place given), June 16, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Prospective purchase of cattle (yearling steers).

#### Sheet 14

From WLV, LA to Fred K. Rule, President San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake R.R. Co., LA, June 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (freight delays with respect to materials/components).

#### Sheets 15-17 (15-16 double transfer of same letter sheet)

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, [SF], June 17, 1903, manuscript.

Topics: Purchase of elk, prospective purchase of bulls. Limited legibility.

#### Sheet 18

From WLV, LA to Union Hardware & Metal Co., LA, June 17, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Request that tools selected by WLV Jr., be charged to Vail & Vickers.

#### Sheets 19-20

From JVV, LA to WLV, (no place given), June 18, 1903, manuscript.

Topics: Hauser Packing Company, potential sale of sheep to same.

#### Sheet 21

From JVV, LA to Fred Gibson, care V.C. Smedley, Pearce, Arizona, June 18, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Yearling steers. Text for telegram.

From JVV, LA to R.C. Sloan, Globe, Arizona, June 19, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle purchase. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 22

From Alex Mills, LA to Union Gas Engine Company, LA, June 19, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (installation of engine).

#### Sheet 23

From WLV, LA to Live Stock and Dairy Journal, Fresno, CA, June 22, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Transport of sheep. Text for telegram.

“Advise Dr. Blemer wire authority Frank Pepper, Santa Barbara, inspect Santa Rosa sheep for shipment Los Angeles. No authorized inspector there. Railroad refuses receive sheep there now. Answer quick.”

From WLV, LA to JVV, Globe, Arizona, June 22, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Transport of sheep and cattle. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 24

From Alex Mills, LA to C.P. Bailey & Sons Co., San Jose, CA, June 23, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for shipping receipt for sack of mohair, possible quantity sale of same.

#### Sheet 25

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, June 27, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for interest payment (on cattle mortgage; see sheet 47).

#### Sheet 26

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, June 29, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Transport of cattle.

#### Sheet 27

From Alex Mills, LA to Union Gas Engine Co., LA, July 2, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Schooner “SRI.”

“Received your letter of June 23<sup>rd</sup> and will say, we have not yet had time to make a photograph of Santa Rosa Island but so soon as we do have time we will photograph same and will take pleasure in giving you one for your new catalogue.”

#### Sheet 28

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, July 2, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Transport of horses and cattle.

#### Sheet 29

From JVV, LA to C.P. Bailey & Sons Co., [San Jose, CA], July 2, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Sale of mohair.

Sheet 30

From JVV, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, CA, July 2, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (brass fittings).

Sheet 31

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent Southern Pacific Co., LA, July 3, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Transport of cattle (cover note for freight payment).

Sheet 32

From JVV, LA to George Helmerick, Terminal Island, CA, July 3, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Sale of "Mildred E."

"If any buyers come around the price is \$3000.00 and if they will not give that, find out what they will give, their names and address and advise us, and oblige."

Sheet 33

From JVV, LA to John H. Warren, Pearce, Arizona, July 3, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Land acquisition in Arizona, mining claim.

"Yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> received. If our forty acres takes in part of your mining claim, when we get the United States patent I am perfectly willing to give you a title to such portion of such claim."

Sheet 34

From JVV, LA to H.J. Angle, c/o Bogy Mercantile Co., Chinook, Montana, July 3, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 35

From JVV, LA to M.C. Forrest, Webaux, Montana, July 3, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

"Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. received. We do not expect to shear until September. We have been paying 5¢ per head for shearing. What would you charge in case we wish you to come and shear for us in September?"

Sheet 36

From JVV, LA to Ed Mahar, Manager W.T.C., San Pedro, CA, July 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: "Mildred E."

"Mr. Muller informs that your dry dock is now in running order again. When could you have our schooner, Mildred E, put on the ways and scraped and painted for us? And what would be the expense?"

Sheet 37

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, July 6, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for paycheck.

"Herewith find our check on First Nat'l Bank for \$200.00 to cover salary and expenses, for which you will please send us statement, and oblige."

Sheet 38

From JVV, LA to Dunham Carrigan & Hayden Co, SF, July 6, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Billing dispute.

Sheet 39

From JVV, LA to The Flexible Shaft Shearing Co., Chicago, July 6, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment, shearing.

Sheet 40

From Alex Mills, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, CA, July 7, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Construction of schooner "SRI" (asking Muller to verify bills for materials).

Sheet 41

From Alex Mills, LA to Cap. F. Widing, SB, July 7, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill for goods purchased for schooner "SRI."

Sheets 42-44

From JVV, LA to WLV, (no place given), July 7, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Stock sales (cattle, sheep, mules, horses).

Sheets 45-46

From JVV, LA to Cap. F. Widing, SB, July 10, 1903, manuscript.  
Topics: Receipt of package, brass fittings for schooner "SRI."

Sheet 47

From JVV, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, July 11, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage. Transcribed in full.

July 11, [190]3

First National Bank  
San Jose, Cal.

Gentlemen:

We beg to advise you that as grass was insufficient in Fithian Fields near Los Alamos, where we had our cattle upon which you hold mortgage, we have moved 405 of the youngest of them to Santa Rosa Island, in same county, thus leaving plenty of room and plenty of feed for what we have left in Fithian Fields.

If you wish us to sign any new mortgage or amendment to file with mortgage showing that a number of them are now on Santa Rosa Island instead of in Fithian Fields as described in such mortgage, kindly prepare same at our expense and mail it to us and we will execute and record it.

Hoping our action will be entirely satisfactory to you, we remain,

Very respectfully yours,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV hand]

[Postscript in JVV hand] There are no other cattle with like brand on the island nor any other mortgaged cattle. V & V

Sheet 48

From Alex Mills, LA to William S. Pollock, Agent S.P.R.R. Co., LA, July 14, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Transport of horses.

Sheet 49

From Alex Mills, LA to E.G. Greening, LA, July 16, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Transport of cattle.

Sheet 50

From Vail & Vickers, Vail & Gates and W.R. Patterson, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, July 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cattle mortgage. More formal statement of the information disclosed at Sheet 47.

#### Sheet 51

From JVV, LA to I.F. Reynolds, Mgr. Oakland Meat Co., Oakland, CA, July 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cattle sales.

#### Sheet 52

From WLV, LA to Ed Ingram, Santa Maria, CA, July 17, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cattle sales.

#### Sheet 53

From Alex Mills, LA to H.E. Skinner Co., SF, July 18, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cannon (for schooner "SRI").

"When last in San Francisco our Mr. Vail saw at your place a No. 8 Brass Cannon, which you priced to him at \$50. We wish you would kindly ship us this cannon . . . "

#### Sheet 54

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, July 22, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Unknown [wool sales?]. Text for telegram.

"Are asking fourteen chute delivered Santa Barbara. Answer."

#### Sheet 55

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, July 24, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley, cover note for interest payment).

#### Sheet 56

From Alex Mills, LA to Ott Hardware Co., SB, July 31, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for payment for tools.

#### Sheet 57

From JVV, LA to P.H. Limmert, Terminal Island, CA, July 31, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Watchman (for "Mildred E"). Text for telegram.



#### Sheet 58

From JVV, LA to Stearns Wharfage [sic] Co., SB, July 31, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wharfage (contesting high charges).

#### Sheet 59

From JVV, LA to Joel R. Fithian, SB, August 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Pasture rent, water supply for livestock.

#### Sheet 60

From JVV, LA to Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden Co., SF, August 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Billing dispute.

#### Sheet 61

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, [Los Olivos, CA], August 3, 1903, manuscript.  
Topics: Paycheck, hay, water supply for Fithian Pasture, cattle sales.

#### Sheet 62

From Alex Mills[?], LA to Flexible Shaft Shearing Machine Co., Chicago, August 3, 1903, manuscript.  
Topics: Shearing and shearers, Banning family.

"Ready shear September first to tenth. Has Angle engaged shearers. Two here. Bannings want machines if ours satisfactory."

#### Sheet 63

From JVV, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, CA, August 5, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Poor quality anchor chain on schooner "SRI," dry docking and maintenance of "Mildred E."

#### Sheet 64

From JVV, LA to P.H. Lemmert, Terminal Island, CA, August 7, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Maintenance of "Mildred E."

#### Sheet 65

From JVV, LA to The Gulf Bag Co., SF, August 8, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Request for quotation on wool bags and twine.

Sheet 66

From JVV, LA to H.J. Angle, Quartermaster Sergeant, Sixth Ill. Infantry, N.G., Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Ill, August 8, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 67

From JVV, LA to M.C. Forrest, SF, August 8, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 68

From JVV, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, August 12, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Construction of schooner "SRI," Dunham Carrigan & Hayden Co., freight.

"[T]here is some credit due us from Dunham-Carrigan & Hayden Co., who furnished the galvanized iron, etc. . . . "

Sheet 69

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SB, August 12, 1903, typescript with manuscript addendum.

Topics: Receipt of cattle shipment, bill from SB Lumber Company, cattle sales, Cudahy Packing Company, shipment of wool, shearing.

Sheet 70

From WLV, LA to W.S. Clayton, San Jose, CA, August 13, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cattle mortgage. Transcribed in full.

Aug. 13, [190]3

W.S. Clayton, Esq.  
San Jose, Cal.

Dear Sir:

The First National Bank of San Jose, amongst other notes held by them in which we are interested, holds one for \$15,338.00 signed by Vail & Vickers, which was given in payment to Patterson & Company for cattle we bought from them and placed in Santa Barbara County. We have, as we wrote you before, moved the calves and yearlings to Santa Rosa Island and have about 600 head left on the Santa Barbara County Ranch, and we find that there will not be many of them in condition to sell for beef this fall, although cattle have done well, but come too

late to fatten this year. On this account we would be glad to pay the average price for the young cattle moved to Santa Rosa Island on the note and ask that the Bank carry the balance due until about the first of April, in other words we would cut the note to about \$10,000, leaving the Bank the cattle as security on the balance.

Wish you would let me know as soon as possible whether the Bank would be willing to carry this amount, and it would be a great accommodation to have them do so. I am,

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 71

From JVV, LA to Dunham, Carrigan & Hayden Co., SF, August 14, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for payment for galvanized iron (for schooner "SRI").

Sheet 72

From JVV, LA to Ed Ingram, Santa Maria, CA, August 17, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Cattle sales. Text for telegram.

Sheet 73

From JVV, LA to Ed Ingram, Santa Maria, CA, August 17, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle sales.

Sheet 74

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, August 17, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle sales. Transcribed in full.

August 17, [190]3

J.M. Cox, Esq.  
Los Alamos, Cal.

Dear Sir:

We have closed a deal with Ed. Ingram for 150 fat cows at 3-12 ½ and for what fat stags you have at 3¢. Mr. Ingram is to take these cows at two drives of 75 cows each and has to furnish men to make the round-up at his expense and the drive at his expense under your management. The cows are to be gathered and weighed the same day about 8 miles from the pasture and we depend upon you to see that they are slowly and carefully gathered and moved to the scales, so that we get the best possible weight, and Mr. Ingram will give you a receipt or

a check for the cows and stags, which you will kindly send us. He is to be there this week for the first 75 and before long for the second drive. Your best attention will oblige,

Yours very truly,  
Vail & Vickers

Sheet 75

From JVV, LA to William Mumby, Firebaugh, CA, August 17, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

"We will pay 6¢ and board to good machine shearers. How many good machine shearers are there that wish to come? We will begin about the first of September and I think we have 12 or 15 thousand to shear."

Sheet 76

From JVV, LA to Charles R. Henderson, San Jose, CA, August 17, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

"We have 10 machines and have already engaged a few men."

Sheet 77

From JVV, LA to M.C. Forrest, SF, August 17, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 78

From JVV, LA to Miller & Lux, SF, August 20, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers. Transcribed in full.

Aug. 20 [190]3

Miller & Lux,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Gentlemen:

We have a sheep shearing outfit at Santa Rosa Island and several thousand sheep to shear next month that we think will average about 6 lb. to the fleece. We have never done any shearing with these machines and have been paying 5¢ per head to hand shearers. We have been informed that 6¢ and board is the going rate for machine shearers on this coast and have a letter from one man offering to work for this price and in which he states that 6¢ and board is

the price on this coast. Mr. Mumby wrote us from Firebaugh and asked what we were going to pay shearers, etc. and we wrote and told him we were going to pay 6¢ and board and he now wires, "Advice [sic] pay of seven cents for shearing to avoid strikes. State how many men wanted, first class shearers. Answer soon. Wm. Mumby, Foreman."

We would be quite obliged if you will wire us at our expense tomorrow on receipt of this letter and let us know what you are paying and what we should pay and also let us know whether Mr. Mumby is one of your foremen or not, and, if you have any preference in the matter, whether or not we give him work.

Thanking you in advance for this information, we remain,

Yours truly,  
Vail & Vickers

Sheet 79

From JVV, LA to L.E. Hanchett, SF, August 20, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Declining an inquiry about purchasing a tract of Vail & Vickers land (SRI?).

Sheets 80-81

From JVV, LA to L.E. Woolery, (no place given), August 21, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Potentially helping a Mr. Case obtain a tract of land in a disputed transaction, location unknown.

Sheet 82

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, August 21, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: William Muller, schooner "SRI" (components).

Sheet 83

From JVV, LA to White Brothers, SF, August 21, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: William Muller, schooner "SRI" (components).

Sheet 84

From JVV, LA to Charles R. Henderson, San Jose, CA, August 22, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

"Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> at hand. We expect to go from Santa Barbara on the morning of September first with the shearers to the island and you can depend on a place as one of them and we will

depend upon your being there to go and help do the shearing. The Mascarel Hotel will be our rendezvo [sic] and in case the date is changed we will write you at San Jose."

#### Sheet 85

From JVV, LA to F.A. Nelson, (no place given), August 24, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 86

Invoice to Ed Ingram for 70 cattle, August 25, 1903, typescript.

#### Sheet 87

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, August 20, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Weighing of cattle, cutting and tallying of calves.

#### Sheet 88

From JVV, LA to H.J. Angle, Dakota, Illinois, August 25, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 89

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, August 25, 1903, typescript with manuscript postscript.  
Topics: Purchase of elk, prospective purchase of bulls.

#### Sheet 90

From JVV, LA to W.J. Nelson, Firebaugh, CA, August 26, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 91

From JVV, LA to William Muller, August 26, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Construction of schooner "SRI" (components).

#### Sheet 92

From JVV, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, August 26, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage.

#### Sheet 93

From JVV, LA to Stearns Wharf Co., [SB], August 27, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Bags and twine for wool.

Sheets 94-95

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, August 27, 1903, manuscript.  
Topics: Transport of wool, coal, lime, and distillate.

Sheet 96

From JVV, LA to William S. Pollock, Agent Southern Pacific Co., LA, August 27, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Missing shipment.

Sheet 97

From JVV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, August 27, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Litigation concerning Santa Rosa Island Company. Transcribed in full.

8/27/1903

Hon. Chas. W. Slack,  
Nevada Block,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

What is the prospect for a settlement of the litigation regarding the Santa Rosa Island Company interest? When we last saw Mr. Watson some months ago he said he thought in July that you would have another inning in Court and that then the opposition would be knocked out. As you know it is unfinished business with us and we should like right well to get it finished without much more delay.

Yours sincerely,  
Vail & Vickers

Sheet 98

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, August 31, 1903, manuscript.  
Topics: Schooner "SRI", wool sales.

Sheet 99

From Alex Mills, LA to The Central Bank, SB, September 2, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Account passbook.

Sheet 100

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, September 27, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Shearing and shearers, Sherman & Ealand, schooner "SRI", abalone fishermen.

Transcribed in full.

9-7-03

Frank Pepper, Esq.

Santa Rosa Island, Cal.

Dear Frank:

The bearer, Mr. Nunn, comes recommended by Mr. Angle, he says, as a shearer and wants work, and as the boat is at Santa Barbara we let him go there and go over with a view of him using the machine that is now idle and in case there are only nine of the machines that will work and for that reason Mr. Nelson has no place for him, then we are to pay Mr. Nunn's car fare from here to Santa Barbara and return him from the Island, of course, to Santa Barbara when the boat next comes over. Meanwhile, no doubt, you can give him enough to do to earn his board.

You need not put up any more mutton for Mr. Ealand at present. We will inform him that we have no more convenient for him.

You may keep the boat at the Island until time to send for the Chinamen so as to have them and their cargo back at our wharf when the shearing is done. Then load up the wool and what pelts and hides you have on hand and send same, and the shearers, to Santa Barbara. In case you think we cannot ship the Chinamen with their catch and the shearers and the wool at the same time, you can make a special trip for the Chinamen before the shearers get done, but I think there will be no difficulty in making one load of everything there is to come. Then you can let us know by that boat when you will want the boat there to bring off the extra help that you have and do not need to keep for the dipping.

Very truly yours,

Vail & Vickers

Sheet 101

From JVV, LA to "Mac", (no place given), September 7, 1903, manuscript.

Topic: Conveying purchase offer from a Joseph McPherson for a parcel of property owned by "Mac."

Sheet 102



From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, [Los Alamos, CA], September 7, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Pasture lease.

“We intend to renew our lease on the pasture of Mr. Fithian.”

Sheet 103  
From JVV, LA to Joel R. Fithian, Carpinteria, September 7, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Pasture lease.

Sheet 104

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, September 10, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 105

From WLV, LA to Sherman & Ealand, SB, September 10, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Dispute over count of sheep, shearing, sheep sales.

Sheet 106

From JVV, LA to Charles Tetzen & Company, SF, September 12, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Abalone.

“Please let us know the best price you are willing to pay for about 160 sacks of large Abalone shells and about 105 sacks of dried Abalone on Santa Barbara wharf.”

Sheet 107

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, September 14, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage.

Sheet 108

From WLV, LA to Sherman & Ealand, SB, September 14, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle shipping, cattle pens, ticks, Mr. Caire (Arthur or Frederic). Transcribed in full.

Sept. 14, [190]3

Messrs. SHERMAN & EALAND  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Gentlemen:

Yours of Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> received and in regard to using the pen we fixed at the Lumber Company's wharf, would say that we see no reason why it should not be used for Mr. Caire's yearlings, provided they come from Arizona or Nevada. If, however, they are shipped from any part of Calif. we would not care to use it again for our Arizona cattle as we feel satisfied there would be considerable risk; as you remembered we shipped 400 head of yearlings from the Fithian Ranch in Santa Barbara and, although there were no ticks on them, we arranged with Mr. Smith for the lot on the opposite side of the street from the Lumber Co. in which we held this 400 head, and then drove them from the main wharf, after which we disinfected our boat and removed the bedding. These cattle had no ticks on them that we knew of, nor have we had any trouble on the Fithian Ranch, which we have had for three years. At the same time we are very likely to run into trouble with any cattle in Calif., and this we are anxious to avoid. We have no right to object to them using this pen, as we are not the owners and we simply fixed it up for our cattle from Arizona, and we were able to do so out of the courtesy of Mr. Smith and the Lumber Co. I think Mr. Smith would be willing to use the Smith lot pen in the same way we did for our Calif. yearlings. I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Smith and Mr. Caire.

Yours truly,  
Vail & Vickers

Sheet 109

From WLV, LA to Frank Smith, c/o Stearns Wharf Co., SB, September 14, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle shipping, cattle pens, ticks. Transcribed in full.

Sept. 14, [190]3

FRANK SMITH, ESQ.  
c/o Stearns Wharf Co.  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Friend:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter written to Sherman & Ealand in regard to putting cattle in the pen next to the Lumber Company's wharf. Mr. Vickers and myself have no right to keep out any cattle from the pen, nor would we object in any way were it not from the fact that we must keep our cattle clean that we place on the Island, and as we feel that there are a few, if any, that are as particular as we are. One diseased animal could prevent our handling our cattle the way we have been doing at your port, as we see no other way to keep them separate except by using this very ground. They, no doubt, can keep them on clean ground the same as we did our little bunch of California cattle that we put in the little lot next to the mill. If they cannot get this they can get some other point that is practically as safe. If, however, the cattle come from Nevada or Arizona, as they may come, they can be kept in safe cars and safe pens and shipped from the wharf pens without risk to our cattle.

Will you kindly show our letter to you, and the Sherman & Ealand letter to the wharf manager?

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 110

From WLV, LA to Caire Brothers, SF, September 15, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle shipping, cattle pens, ticks. Transcribed in full.

Sep. 15, [190]3

CAIRE BROTHERS,  
565 Market St.  
San Francisco, Cal.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find copy of letter from Sherman & Ealand and our reply to same. We would suggest that too much care cannot be taken to keep our Island cattle free from ticks, and we have no reason to doubt you appreciate the danger. The lot we suggest using for the California cattle is as convenient as the one in front of the wharf and I have no doubt Mr. Smith would accommodate you with it.

Believe me,  
Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheets 111-112

From JVV, LA to M.C. Forrest, [SF], September 17, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers (group of shearers quit, replaced by Mexican shearers).

Sheet 113

From Alex Mills, LA to Lee Tong, care Son Lung, SB, September 30, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Abalone fishermen. Transcribed in full.

Sep. 30, [190]3

LEE TONG  
Care Son Lung,  
Canon Perdido St.,

Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst., enclosing check of The Commercial Bank of Santa Barbara, to the Los Angeles National Bank of this city, our favor, for \$124.80, which purports to pay for our interest in abalone shells and meat lately gathered by Chinamen on the Santa Rosa Island, \$94.80, and for their transportation back to the main land, \$30. As both members of the firm are absent from this city, and will neither of them be back until next week, we let you know that check has been received, and leave final settlement of the matter for them when they do return.

Yours truly,  
Vail & Vickers

Sheet 114

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, [SF], October 9, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 115 blank

Sheets 116-117

From JVV, LA to E.H. Tryon, [SF], October 15, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 118

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, October 15, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments to Eliza M. Miller and Mrs. C.A. Baldwin).

Sheet 119

From WLV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, October 16, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Feeding of cattle, weaning of calves.

Sheet 120

From JVV, LA to Spreckels Commercial Co., San Diego, October 17, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Dry docking of schooner (probably "Mildred E"; see Sheet 147).

Sheets 121-122

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, [Willcox, Arizona], October 19, 1903, manuscript.  
Topic: Offer to purchase yearling steers on credit. Transcribed in full.

10/19 [190]3

Wm. M. Riggs, Esq.  
Dear William:

Yours 15<sup>th</sup> rec'd. Mr. Vail in San Diego. I expect him back tomorrow. If we take a train load, 650 to 750 head, yearlings @ 14 full aged 10% cut, all good American steer y'g's, would it be satisfactory to you to wait eight months for the money if we pay interest at 6% per annum?

If so wire us when you get this and I will see what Mr. Vail thinks and let you know at once. We have some money on hand but as Wall St. unsettled and banks a little timid we don't wish to figure too close.

Yours confidentially and truly,  
J.V. Vickers

Sheet 123

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, October 21, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Purchase of elk, prospective purchase of bulls.

Sheet 124

From JVV, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, October 23, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (cover note for payment of interest due to Mr. Hamersley).

Sheet 125

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, October 26, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 126

From JVV, LA to C.W. Jackson, SF, October 26, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 127

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, October 26, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 128

From JVV, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, October 26, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (property taxes).

Sheet 129

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, October 26, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Water trough at Fithian pasture, rumored offer by one John McGilverin to purchase the pasture for \$1900.00, missed connection.

Sheet 130

From JVV, LA to Rowlands & Laughton, SF, October 26, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Order for part for schooner "SRI."

Sheet 131

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, October 26, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Order for part for schooner "SRI."

Sheet 132

From JVV, LA to Spreckels Commercial Co., San Diego, CA, October 26, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Request for quotation on hay.

Sheet 133

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, October 28, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Acknowledges letter from Riggs, postpones response due to travel.

Sheet 134

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SB, October 28, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Schooner "SRI," wool sales, pipe.

"We have not sold the wool yet and the pipe is not all done so that the Captain is laying at Santa Barbara and will go over with the pipe, troughs and seed grain when the pipe is all done, probably sometime in the next 2 or 3 weeks. Meanwhile if you happen to be in Santa Barbara call us up so we can talk with you."

Sheet 135

From Alex Mills, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, October 29, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 136

From Alex Mills, LA to County Tax Collector, SB, November 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Property taxes.

Sheet 137

From Alex Mills, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, November 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Part for schooner "SRI."

Sheet 138

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, November 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Eradication of ravens using strychnine, pipe (for cattle water supply), rain, cattle grazing, forthcoming exit from sheep raising. Transcribed in full.

Nov. 3, [190]3

FRANK PEPPER, ESQ.  
Santa Rosa Island

Dear Frank:

I do not know whether you got the strychnine in Santa Barbara or not, that you asked me to get and, if you did not, you better get some in Santa Barbara so as to have it on hand to poison the ravens. I think the crystallized strychnine is far better than the pulverized, and when you get it be sure and get this kind. I presume you ought to have 5 or 6 ounces. I find that a person should be careful and not put too much strychnine in the meat as I think it makes it bitter and the animals will not eat it.

I hope to be able to come over and bring the pipe in about three weeks. Whenever you have a chance to write, do so as I am very anxious to know how the cattle are doing and whether the yearlings are holding up pretty well. If we could get a good rain before the first of January I think we will move over all the cattle we have in the Fithian pasture, as there will be plenty of room on the island. If we have a good rain they will get fat there and any that don't can remain. There are about 300 calves and I think about 400 to 500 cows and steers. I think we will drive them to Santa Barbara and ship from there.

When you write let me know how many calves you have marked this year. I will probably bring a Surveyor over with me so we can run out some levels and see whether we can put water in this end of the pasture where you held the sheep. My idea is to run the water as far up the

Canyon as possible and then change the fence so as to have a watering place for the cattle at this end of the pasture for us to hold our cattle in when we are shipping off beef. Besides this I think it would carry 6 or 7 hundred cattle the year round if we wish to leave them there. My idea is that we could get out our beef and keep them in this pasture. By doing this we would have them handy at all times for shipment. I do not know that we will need it this year for our beef, as there will be so little beef shipped, but hereafter it would be a nice pasture, especially when we will not have to use it for sheep. My impression is that we will get rid of the sheep this year, but do not say anything to anybody in regard to this.

We are all well here. I have been laid up for a week but will soon be out again.

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 139

From WLW, LA to Frank Smith, President Stearns Wharf Co., SB, November 4, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Wharfage rates.

Sheet 140

From Vail & Vickers (author unknown) to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, November 6, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Bill for components for schooner "SRI."

Sheet 141

From R.C., LA to Edmund M. Burke, County Tax Collector, SB, November 6, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Property tax (request for further details).

Sheet 142

From WLW, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, November 10, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley), interest rate on mortgage for same.

Sheet 143

From WLW, LA to Adolph Loessel, SF, November 11, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Property taxes, water supply on SRI, shearing. Transcribed in full.

11/11, [190]3

ADOLPH LOESSEL, ESQ.  
Nevada Block, San Francisco, Cal.



Dear Sir:

Yours received and in reply will say that we will attend to the payment of taxes on your interest in the Santa Rosa Island.

There is nothing new down here and everything quiet. Have not heard from Santa Rosa Island for about six weeks, the last time our boat was over there. We have deemed it necessary to buy pipe for a new pipe line as we have been without water at the ranch end of the Island a great deal of the time last summer, consequently the stock there have been short of water there several times and it has made it bad, especially at times of shearing and handling the sheep as all the water at the home ranch has to be piped about two miles and the old pipe line has played out. Mr. Vickers is in the East now but I expect him back before long.

Thanking you for your kind remembrances of my family and with kind regards to Judge Slack, I am,

Yours very truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 144

From Alex Mills, LA to Edmund M. Burke, County Tax Collector, SB, November 11, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Property tax (Burke had given requested information, but erroneously about Santa Cruz Island rather than SRI.)

Sheet 145

From Alex Mills, LA to E.J. Daniels, Santa Ynez, CA, November 12, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Southern Pacific stock contract and rebate check.

Sheet 146

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, November 12, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley), interest rate on mortgage for same.

Sheet 147

From Alex Mills, LA to George L. Bugbee, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, November 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: "Mildred E" (answering questions from prospective purchaser).

"Age: Built in 1884.

Where built: Meteghan, Nova Scotia, of Nova Scotia Larch wood. Rebuilt in Boston in 1895.

Builder: Do not know who built her.

Length: 82 7/10 feet.

Beam: 24 feet.

Depth of Hold: 8 7/10 feet.

What is her insurance rating: Insured in 1901, at Seattle, at 12%. Have not insured since.

Is she copper sheathed: No.

Length of masts from keel: Like all Nova Scotia boats, her masts are long, with considerable rake. Do not know exact length.

Gross and Net tonnage: 119 Gross. 99 Net. Carry 200 tons.

Condition of sails and standing rigging: Good condition.

Condition of her hull: Less than four weeks off ways, with two good coats of copper paint."

Sheet 148

From Alex Mills, LA to Rosaline Vasquez, SB, November 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Seeking to collect \$20 loan made to Vasquez in July.

Sheet 149

From WLV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, November 16, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Purchase of elk and bulls, WLV surgery and recovery (see Sheet 158).

Sheet 150

From Alex Mills, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, November 19, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Pipe (for Island water supply).

Sheet 151

From Alex Mills, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, November 19, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Pipe (for Island water supply), freight on same.

#### Sheet 152

From Alex Mills, LA to JVV, Texhoma, Oklahoma, November 19, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Property taxes (on Vail & Gates property), money owed to a Mr. Freeman.

#### Sheet 153

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, November 19, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for check (freight on pipe).

#### Sheet 154

From Alex Mills, LA to Santa Barbara Water Co., SB, November 19, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Watering of cattle from Company pipes.

#### Sheet 155

From WLV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, November 23, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Purchase of elk and bulls, WLV surgery and recovery (See Sheet 158).

#### Sheet 156

From Vail & Vickers (author unknown), LA to Lee Tong, SB, November 24, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Abalone fishermen.

"[I]t is so risky, sending our boat to the back end of the Island for you when you are ready to leave, to get you and the catch, that we do not care to do any business there this time of the year and next Spring we will make up our minds what we will have done there."

#### Sheet 157

From Alex Mills, LA to Edmund M. Burke, County Tax Collector, SB, November 25, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Property taxes (cover note for payment).

#### Sheet 158

From WLV, LA to C.A. Storke, SB, November 25, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Abalone fishermen, abalone fishery, WLV accident. Transcribed in full.

11/25/1903

C.A. STORKE, ESQ.  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> received and in reply would say that it is our opinion that it would not be policy to make any arrangement with the Chinamen at the present time. I had a letter from them two days ago to which I replied at once. The facts are we ran a great risk of losing our boat getting them off the Island last time, and at this season of the year we would not care to run the risk with it for the sake of the little profit there is in the abalone business, and from reports we have it would be more lucrative to us and to them to let the abalones go over for a year as the majority of the abalones are too small to be taken, according to our California fishery laws. We have no objections to these men as to their honesty and we, no doubt, would be willing to make some arrangement with them whenever we think the proper time has arrived, but it is our opinion that it is not policy to do anything this season. Later on, next Summer, we might decide differently.

Mr. Vickers is in the East at the present time so I cannot confer with him but we had a long talk on the subject just before his going and we decided not to allow any fishing this season. As you know we have had many applications for this privilege and I will say that we will give them the first chance next time on the same basis we would give anyone else.

I have been unfortunate lately, and on account of an accident have been laid up at my house. My horse fell with me on the street in Los Angeles and crippled me up pretty badly for the present, but my doctors say when I get well I will be alright.

Believe me,  
Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheets 159-164 excised. According to the index, a letter to C.W. Gates was at Sheet 161 and a letter to E.L. Vail at Sheet 159.

Sheet 165

From Alex Mills, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, November 27, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Component for schooner "SRI," WLV accident and injury, loading of water pipe, readiness to travel to Island.

"Mr. Vail is laid up at the house with a foot bruised by his horse falling on it and he wished me to ask you to let us know how you are getting on with the loading of the pipe, and when you would be ready to start for the island. It may be several days before he will be ready to go, but when he is ready he would like to know that you are ready."

Sheet 166

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to Lee Tong, SB, November 28, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Abalone fishermen, abalone fishery.

Sheet 167

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to J.M. Armstrong, manager Santa Barbara Lumber Co., SB, November 28, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Lumber for cattle pen.

Sheet 168

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to G.W. Luce, General Freight Agent, S.P. Co., SF, November 30, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Freight to ship three elk from Los Banos to San Pedro.

Sheet 169

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to Henry Miller, SF, November 30, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Shipment of elk.

Sheet 170

From WLW, LA to J.M. Armstrong, manager Santa Barbara Lumber Co., December 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Lumber for cattle pen.

Sheet 171

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to JVV, Texhoma, Oklahoma, December 3, 1903, typescript.  
Topics: Shipment of cattle, shipment of elk, sale of "Mildred E," social conditions in LA, dry weather in SB area, WLW accident and recovery. Faint transfer.

"Sweat [sic] telephoned me day before yesterday that he had sold the Mildred for \$3,000.00. All that remained to do was to close up the deal. I, however, have seen nothing of him so will not believe there is anything in the trade until we get our money."

Sheet 172

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, December 4, 1903, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments on Miller and Baldwin mortgages).

Sheet 173

From WLV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, December 5, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Shipment of elk, prospective purchase of bulls, dry conditions in SB area.

"In regard to the bulls, think it better for us to wait, at present, as it is still very dry here and if we do not have rain soon do not wish to turn new bulls on a dry range on the Island. Those we have there are all thoroughbreds and good bulls, but we are desirous of making a change, and if everything looks alright in January I feel that we could take a carload, if prices are satisfactory."

Sheet 174

From Alex Mills, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, December 5, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shipment of elk.

Sheet 175

From WLV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, December 9, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Shipment of elk (death of one of the three, injury to another).

Sheet 176

From WLV, LA to Santa Barbara Lumber Co., SB, December 9, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for payment for railroad ties.

Sheet 177

From WLV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, December 9, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Wool sales.

Sheets 178-179

From WLV, LA to Santa Barbara Water Co., SB, December 16, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Water as consumed by Vail & Vickers cattle while corralled in SB.

Sheet 180

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, December 17, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Schooner "SRI" needed in SB, fuel for her.

Sheet 181

From WLV, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, CA, December 18, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (issues with Union Gas Engine Company).

#### Sheet 182

From WLW, LA to John Ingram, San Luis Obispo, CA, December 18, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Potential taking by Ingram of 5-year lease on Fithian pasture.

#### Sheet 183

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, December 18, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Camping (letter of introduction).

"This will introduce you to Mr. Thomas Walker of Oxnard, who may wish to go back on the Island to camp. Mr. Walker is a personal friend of mine and any courtesies extended to him on the Island will be appreciated . . . "

#### Sheet 184

From Vail & Vickers (R.C.), LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, December 18, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for payment of freight on elk.

#### Sheet 185

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, December 19, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Elk.

"Enclosed please find our check for \$200.00 to cover your expense in connection with the two elk, which we have received, which we hope will be satisfactory to you. In case we get more from you, per your kind offer of December 15<sup>th</sup>, we will then take pleasure in remitting for them."

#### Sheet 186

From WLW, LA to H.C. Thompson, Supt. S.B. Water Co., SB, December 23, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Rate paid on water for cattle.

#### Sheet 187

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, December 23, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Elk.

#### Sheet 188

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to John Ingram, San Luis Obispo, CA, December 23, 1903, typescript.

Topics: Fithian pasture, cattle.

"Yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> received and note all you say about the Fithian ranch. Vail & Vickers have moved all their stock from there and the way the outlook is now don't think we care to lease the property with a dry year staring us in the face."

#### Sheet 189

From WLV (Alex Mills signing for him) to J.D. Radford, First National Bank, San Jose, CA, December 23, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cattle mortgage.

#### Sheet 190

From Alex Mills, LA to William S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, December 26, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

#### Sheet 191

From Alex Mills, LA to G.A. Parkyns, Asst. G.F. & P.A., S.P. Co., LA, December 29, 1903, typescript.

Topic: Overpayment of freight; request for refund.

#### Sheet 192

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, January 4, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Bills for hay, reimbursing Cox expenses and paycheck.

#### Sheet 193

From JVV, LA to P.W. Watson, SF, January 7, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Wool sales.

#### Sheet 194

From JVV, LA to E.H. Tryon, SF, January 7, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Wool sales.

#### Sheet 195

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, January 8, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Berth for "Mildred E" (still owned by Vail & Vickers at this time).

#### Sheet 196

From JVV, LA to E.H. Tryon, SF, January 12, 1904, manuscript.



Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 197

From JVV, LA to Henry Miller, SF, January 13, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Elk.

"Enclosed please find our checks for \$300.00, to cover your expenses in kindly endeavoring to furnish us with a breeding bunch of Elk, numbering three or four. We note what you say regarding a Buck Elk that we can have at Buttonwillow."

Sheet 198

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, January 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Transport of cattle from Fithian field to SRI.

"We have decided to take the rest of the cattle to Santa Barbara and ship them to the Island. We think that, with two men to help you and perhaps some arrangement as to a team to haul the calves that may give out and the hay, where necessary to haul it, in order to feed them on the road wherever they need it, and taking your time, that you can get them all to Santa Barbara."

Sheet 199

From JVV, LA to Joel Remington Fithian, January 15, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Pasture lease (giving up of same). Transcribed in full.

Jan. 15, [190]4

Joel Remington Fithian, Esq.  
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Mr. Fithian:

Yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> at hand. We are not going to keep your ranch. We moved nearly everything off last month and are just awaiting the return of our foreman who went to Bakersfield about two weeks ago on a little passea [sic] for a week or ten days and is now expected back daily, when we will send him up to move the balance of them to Santa Barbara and thence to Santa Rosa Island. From what Mr. Ingram wrote Mr. Vail and from the fact that he has not answered Mr. Vail's last letter at all, I do not think he will lease it unless it rains. When we offered it to him for you for five years he answered that if we would take it this year he would take it the next four, and Mr. Vail answered him that we have no use for it this year and expected him to reply, and as that was in December and he has not done so yet I infer that he is waiting to see whether there is going to be any feed this year or not before he answers. I fear that you will not

be able to do anything with it until it rains, however, we have it in mind and will gladly do anything we can to help you place it.

Yours very truly,  
J.V. Vickers

Sheet 200

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, (no place given), January 16, 1904.

Topic: Transport of cattle from Fithian field to SRI.

Sheet 201

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, SB, January 23, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley, cover note for interest payment).

Sheet 202

From JVV, LA to Whitman, Farnsworth & Thayer, Boston, January 25, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 203

From JVV, LA to L.C. Fenno, Boston, January 25, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 204

From JVV, LA to Joel Remington Fithian, SB, January 27, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Lead on potential purchaser for Fithian ranch.

Sheet 205

From JVV, LA to Clay-Robinson & Co., Kansas City, Missouri, January 28, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Inquiry as to market conditions for stock sheep, drought.

“There has been no rain to speak of here this winter and if it continues dry for 30 or 40 days more we shall probably think best to dispose of several thousand of our sheep . . . “

Sheet 206

From JVV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, February 2, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Conclusion of relationship. Transcribed in full.

Feb. 2, [190]4

J.M. Cox, Esq.  
Los Alamos, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find our checks for expense account and your pay in full to February 1<sup>st</sup>. Our work there having run out, we, as you already know, have no further use for your good services at present. We hope that we may sometime meet again and that you may meet with success continually. Mr. Fithian advises us that he has leased his pastures and would like the premises vacated, so if you still happen to be living in his house I expect you better move to your own without much delay.

Please write us a letter showing what of our cattle you know of in that country and where they are, and oblige.

Yours very truly,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV hand]

Sheet 207

From JVV, LA to Joel Remington Fithian, SB, February 2, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Conclusion of relationship.

Sheet 208

From JVV, LA to Whitman, Farnsworth & Thayer, February 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 209

From JVV, LA to Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, February 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Planting of grass to prevent sand encroachment on SRI soil. Transcribed in full.

2/6/[190]4

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We have noticed, with interest, your booklets of "Sand Binding Grasses." We have considerable inroads made on our soil by driving sands on our Island, called "Santa Rosa Island," in Santa Barbara Channel. No effort has been made there to prevent this. From what your literature

teaches us we hope to be able to alleviate this danger by adopting your suggestions of planting some of these grasses. Do you furnish any roots or seeds of the Marran grass, the Seaside Bluegrass, St. Augustine grass, Japanese Lawn grass, or other grasses suitable for our purpose? If not, can you inform us where we can procure same?

Any information will be appreciated by,  
Yours very respectfully,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV hand]

#### Sheet 210

From WLW, LA to F.A. Nelson, care J. Wardlaw, Porterville, CA, February 10, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Shearing and shearers.

"We are anxious, on account of the dry weather, to work as fast as possible this year and would work hand shearers as well as the machines."

#### Sheet 211

From WLW, LA to Joel Remington Fithian, SB, February 10, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Charles Fuller (prospective lessee of Fithian ranch), ticks (on cattle), drought.

"I regret very much that I could not make a long lease of the property for you, but this terrible drouth seems to have paralyzed all those who wished to rent land. I, however, hope we will have a good season, and, if so, there will be no trouble for you to get people who have clean cattle to go there."

#### Sheet 212

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, February 11, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Posts, barbed wire and nails to be taken to SRI, asphalt to be loaded at Goleta, schooner "SRI."

"We expect you to go to the Island with this little lot of stuff and then to Moore's [sic] Landing and load Asphalt, 100 or 150 tons, as convenient, and bring it to the Crescent Wharf [at San Pedro] and keep us advised of your movements as opportunity presents itself, and have the Crescent Wharf people notify us when you arrive there with your cargo."

#### Sheet 213

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, Care Capt. Widing, San Pedro, CA, February 11, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Posts, barbed wire and nails to be taken to SRI, asphalt to be loaded at Goleta, shearing and shearers, fencing, water line.

“What progress have you made with the placing of the pipe along the water line?”

Sheet 214

From WLV, LA to Ed Ingram, Santa Maria, CA, February 15, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Potential sale of sheep.

Sheet 215

From WLV, LA to Frank Smith, c/o Stearns Wharf Co., SB, February 16, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Asphalt, coal, wharfage, schooner “SRI.”

“In connection with our Island business we have been handling some asphalt from Goleta, and we have been offered some coal for Santa Barbara. The price they wish to pay is so low that it is questionable whether it would pay us to bother with it.”

Sheet 216

From JVV, LA to Chas. Lehman, (no place given), February 17, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: “Mildred E” (specifications given to interested party).

Sheet 217

From JVV, LA to WLV, Tucson, Arizona, February 19, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Rain, potential purchase of sheep by Ed Ingram.

Sheet 218

From JVV, LA to WLV, [Tucson, Arizona], February 20, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Encloses letter from Morgan Edwards, Cave Creek, Arizona to WLV.

Sheet 219

From JVV, LA to WLV, Tucson, Arizona, February 20, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Schooner “SRI” (government inspection and requested modifications), illness of the mate, rain at SRI.

“[Captain Widing] reports that Ed, the mate, is very sick abed, but he doesn’t know what is the matter with him. He says he has a comfortable room and good attention and a Doctor in the town. The Captain is of the opinion that we got a big rain at the Island on the 16<sup>th</sup>.”

Sheet 220

From JVV, LA to Miller & Lux, [SF], February 24, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 221

From JVV, LA to Whitman, Farnsworth & Thayer, Boston, February 25, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 222

From JVV, LA to Western Dressed Beef Company, SF, March 1, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 223

From JVV, LA to Miller & Lux, [SF], March 1, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 224

From WLV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, March 1, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (smokestack).

Sheet 225

From JVV, LA to Jesus Ruiz, SB, March 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 226

From JVV, LA to Captain James G. Prescott, SB, March 3, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Charges for trips to SRI, rain.

Sheet 227

From JVV, LA to Western Alaska Construction Co., New York, March 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: "Mildred E" (giving information to potential purchaser).

"The reason for our wishing to sell her is that our trips are short and we have a power boat, which is more suitable to our light business, which is carrying supplies and sheep and cattle to and from Santa Rosa Island to the main land. Santa Rosa Island, as you may know, is one of the channel islands off Santa Barbara. The "Mildred E" is now at San Pedro, where we should be pleased to show her to anyone that you may send to look at her at any time previous to her sale. We are asking \$3,000.00 for her."

#### Sheet 228

From JVV, LA to G.A. Johnson, Firebaugh, CA, March 4, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheets 229-230

From JVV, LA to Morgan Edwards, [Cave Creek, Arizona], March 4, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 231

From Vail & Vickers (R.C. signing), LA to G.A. Johnson, Firebaugh, CA, March 4, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Forwarding mail.

#### Sheet 232

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, March 5, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest on Miller and Baldwin mortgages).

#### Sheet 233

From JVV, LA to Miller & Lux, SF, March 5, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

#### Sheet 234

From JVV, LA to E.S. Sheffield, SB, March 7, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Spaying.

#### Sheet 235

From JVV, LA to F.A. Nelson, Porterville, CA, March 9, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 236

From WLV, LA to F.A. Nelson, Porterville, CA, March 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 237

From WLV, LA to F.A. Nelson, Porterville, CA, March 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 238

From WLV, LA to JVV, Bowie, Arizona, March 16, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 239

From Alex Mills, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, March 17, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Supplies (oil for shearing machines, batteries).

Sheet 240

From V & V, LA to Flexible Shaft Shearing Co., Chicago, March 29, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing machines or supplies for same.

Sheet 241

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, March 30, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Order for chain (for schooner "SRI").

Sheet 242

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, March 30, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cattle mortgage (cover note for interest payment).

Sheet 243

From WLV, LA to J.D. Radford, President First National Bank, San Jose, CA, March 31, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cattle mortgage.

Sheet 244

From WLV, LA to Henry Miller, c/o Miller & Lux, SF, March 31, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Sheep sales, shearing.

Sheet 245

From WLV, LA to W.W. Burton, Esq., SB, April 1, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI. Transcribed in full.

April 1, [190]4

W.W. Burton, Esq.



Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as one of previous date, is received at my office in due course, but as I have been absent they were not answered. I note contents of both and you have been very courteous in this matter. We have bargained for all the Island interests and have everything properly transferred except one interest that cannot be done until some San Francisco law-suits are settled, and expected to have left this matter until that time, but I presume, from your letter, that some money would be convenient now and enclose our check for \$250.00 and hope before long the matter will be satisfactorily settled so I can see you in the same way. Please treat this confidentially and oblige,

Yours very truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 246

From JVV, LA to Henry Adams, Alfred Dolge Mfg. Co., LA, April 1, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 247

From V & V, LA to Western Union Telegraph Co., SB, April 2, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Request for a copy of a message sent on March 21 to the Flexible Shaft Shearing Co.

Sheet 248

From WLV, LA to C.A. Storke, Esq., SB, April 2, 1904, typescript with manuscript postscript.  
Topic: Abalone fishermen, abalone fishery.

Sheet 249

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, April 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage.

Sheet 250

From Alex Mills (signing for Vail & Vickers, Vail & Gates, and W.R. Patterson & Co.), LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, April 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage.

Sheet 251

From Vail & Vickers, LA to Crescent Wharf & Warehouse Co., San Pedro, CA, April 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 252

From WLV, LA to A.F. Owen, Traverse City, Michigan, April 5, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Defeating rumor of sale of SRI.

"Yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup> just received, as well as clipping of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. In regard to Santa Rosa Island, Vail & Vickers own it and have not sold the Island, nor do we want to, nor do we know of anyone who contemplates its purchase."

Sheet 253

From JVV, LA to William Muller, San Pedro, CA, April 8, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sale of "Mildred E" (potential purchaser viewing).

Sheet 254

From JVV, LA to William Muller, [San Pedro, CA], April 15, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: "Mildred E" (watchman).

Sheet 255

From JVV, LA to The Union Gas Engine Co., SF, April 15, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (request for recommendation to boat builder for a skiff and life raft).

Sheet 256

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, April 15, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (request for quotation on items of safety equipment).

Sheet 257 blank

Sheet 258

From JVV, LA to Baker Brothers, [Hachita, New Mexico], April 16, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Request to defer payment of livestock note from May 1 to June 1.

Sheet 259

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, April 20, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (request for further information on skiff, request for quotation on lifeboats).

#### Sheets 260-261

From JVV, LA to The Dolge Manufacturing Co., LA, April 22, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Billing for wool shipped to Dolge (166 bales totaling 59,924 pounds).

#### Sheet 262

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, April 23, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of Hamersley interest in SRI (cover note for interest payment).

#### Sheet 263

From Alex Mills, LA to County Tax Collector, SB, April 23, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Property taxes.

#### Sheet 264

From Vail & Vickers (author unknown), LA to San Clemente Wool Co., Avalon, CA, April 28, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI," transport of sheep. Text for telegram.

"Boat stuck on ways San Diego since Monday. Dock company promise get her off tonight. She goes direct Clemente." Notable for how such a short communication connects three islands: San Clemente, Santa Catalina and Santa Rosa.

#### Sheet 265

From JVV, LA to Dolge Manufacturing Co., Dolgeville, CA, May 2, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Payment for wool.

Dolgeville, founded January 15, 1904, eventually was annexed by Alhambra.

<https://www.sgvtribune.com/2013/07/07/history-column-the-vanishing-town-of-dolgeville/>

#### Sheet 266

From JVV, LA to Jacob Rosenberg's Sons, SF, May 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Notification that spring clip of wool has been sold (to Dolge).

#### Sheet 267

From JVV, LA to Miller & Lux, SF, May 5, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Inquiry as to SF market price for mutton sheep.

Sheet 268

From JVV, LA to San Clemente Wool Co., [Avalon, CA], May 5, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Freight bill for hauling sheep.

Sheet 269

From JVV, LA to F.A. Nelson, Weiser, Idaho, May 7, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing machine.

"If you can sell our shearing machine for its cost less 10% we will pay you 10% for so doing.

Sheet 270

From JVV, LA to F.N. Gehl, [SB], May 8, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 271

From JVV, LA to John Twigg & Sons Co., May 12, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (order for skiff).

Sheet 272

From JVV, LA to Lee Tong, c/o You Kee, SB, May 12, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Abalone fishermen.

"We do not want any hunting nor fishing done on the Island this year."

Sheet 273

From JVV, LA to Chas. S. Hardy, San Diego, CA, May 13, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 274

From JVV, LA to Chicago Flexible Shaft Co., Chicago, May 13, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing machine (request to return parts that did not arrive in time to be of use).

Sheet 275

From JVV, LA to Western Repair and Supply Co., SF, May 17, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (accessory boat, anchor chain).

"Yours of May 14 received. I have shown it to the Captain and he thinks I have made a mistake in asking for the price of a 'skiff.' He thinks the price you quote is not enough for such a boat as we want. He wants a yawl boat of good make and workmanship 'such as schooners always carry.' Kindly let us know if this is what you have quoted and, if not, what something in the way of a first-class Yawl boat of this size, with brass row-locks and good oars and all complete, is worth."

Sheet 276

Freight invoice to San Clemente Wool Company. Coal, provisions and fresh water went from San Pedro to San Clemente Island. Sheep, wool and 2 ½ tons of abalone meat came from San Clemente Island to San Pedro.

Sheet 277

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, May 23, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (accessory boat, anchor chain).

"We have ordered you a 16' yawl boat shipped direct from San Francisco."

Sheet 278

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, May 23, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (accessory boat, anchor chain).

Sheet 279

From JVV, LA to Agent, Wells, Fargo & Co., SB, May 24, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Package to go to SRI.

Sheet 280

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, May 24, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (accessory boat).

Sheet 281

From JVV, LA to Baker Brothers, [Hachita, New Mexico], May 26, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Payoff of livestock note.

Sheet 282

From WLV, LA to Julius Ohl, San Bernardino, CA, May 26, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheets 283, 285 (Sheet 284 excised, number does not appear in index, letter is complete)

From WLV, LA to Frank L. Procter, Cananes, Mexico, May 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 286 excised. Number does not appear in index.

Sheet 287

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], May 27, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (anchor chain).

Sheet 288

From WLV, LA to F.J. Gates, Naco, Arizona, May 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep sales.

Sheet 289

From WLV, LA (Alex Mills signing for him) to E.L. Vail, Tucson, Arizona, May 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Sheep sales, WLV accident and recovery, Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

"Had a letter from Farrish today and he wanted me to extend to you his regards and ask you whether you could not go to the World's Fair, and hoped you would, so he could have a visit from you."

Sheet 290

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, June 2, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (anchor chain).

Sheet 291

From Vail & Vickers (employee R.C.), LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, June 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments to Mrs. Eliza M. Miller and Mrs. Cornelia A. Baldwin).

Sheet 292

From JVV, LA to Capt. William G. Waters, SB, June 9, 1904, typescript.

Topics: WLV visit to SRI, schooner "SRI" (possible charter?), cattle sales, sheep sales.

"Mr. Vail is at the Island now with a party and I expect will arrive with a load of stock at San Pedro tomorrow. Upon his return I will show him your letter and will know, perhaps, better what our own demands for the boat will be, as he has both a beef and mutton buyer with him."

Sheet 293

From WLV, LA to Crescent Wharf Co., [San Pedro, CA], no date, manuscript.

Topic: Construction of cattle chute. Includes hand-drawn diagram.

Sheet 294

From Alex Mills, LA to S.P. Stow, Treasurer Santa Barbara County Live Stock Ass'n, SB, June 15, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for dues payment.

Sheet 295

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, June 16, 1904, typescript with manuscript postscript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (flags for her). Transcribed in full.

June 16<sup>th</sup>, [190]4

Western Repair & Supply Co.,  
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

Please order a signal flag, a Union Jack and a "Budgea," [sic] as the Captain calls it. It is a pennant, or streamer, flag with the name of the schooner, that he means, to-wit, "Santa Rosa Island," on it in the proper colors, for the boat's name flag, you know.

We wish these flags of suitable size for our schooner, which is about 100 feet long and has an 85 horse power engine on it. Kindly have them made, or selected, of the proper size and good material and ship to us as soon as possible by express, as we wish to have them before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thanking you in advance for your attention and promptness, we remain,

Yours truly,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV hand]

[In JVV hand] We have American flag and House flag.

#### Sheet 296

From JVV, LA to J.C. Bothin, (no place given), June 18, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: "Mildred E" (offering her for sale).

#### Sheet 297

From Alex Mills, LA to E.G. Greening, LA, June 17, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Overdue note payable to V & V.

#### Sheet 298

Invoice to Cudahy Packing Company, June 20, 1904, typescript.

#### Sheets 299-300

From WLV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, June 20, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Lamb and sheep sales (Dunn), transport of livestock via schooner "SRI."

"In future we want to try and load about daylight in the morning, as we can then get smoother water and have the full benefit of the wind in sailing. We wish to try this for a few shipments and see how it works. So make your arrangements to have everything ready to load at daylight this next shipment."

#### Sheet 301

From WLV, LA to Captain William Waters, SB, June 20, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Request that Waters inspect and certify SRI sheep.

#### Sheet 302

Invoice to Cudahy Packing Company for steers and sheep, June 20, 1904, typescript.

#### Sheet 303

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., [SF], June 22, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (flags, anchor chain).

#### Sheet 304

From Alex Mills, LA to Captain F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], June 25, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI": Transport of Pedro Quintero [son of Santiago Quintero] to SRI.



#### Sheet 305

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, June 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle mortgage (payoff).

#### Sheet 306

From Alex Mills, LA to Agent, S.P. Co., LA, June 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for check for freight.

#### Sheet 307

From WLW, LA to Frank Smith, SB, June 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Property taxes (assessment of livestock and real estate).

#### Sheet 308

From JVV, LA to E. Jourdan, Inspector, San Pedro, CA, June 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep inspection.

#### Sheets 309-310

From WLW, LA to Captain William G. Waters, SB, July 2, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Billing for transport to San Miguel Island, sheep inspection.

#### Sheet 311

From WLW, LA to Captain William G. Waters, SB, July 5, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Billing for transport to San Miguel Island, sheep inspection.

#### Sheet 312

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, July 5, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Lamb and sheep sales, Cudahy Packing Company, Maier Packing Company, Dunn (sheep packer), Sentous (sheep packer).

#### Sheet 313

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, July 11, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Lamb and sheep sales, Cudahy Packing Company, Dunn (sheep packer).

#### Sheet 314

From Vail & Vickers (author unknown), LA to Richard and Ira Ellis, Firebaugh, CA, July 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers. Transcribed in full.

July 14, [190]4

Messrs. Richard & Ira Ellis  
Firebaugh, California

Dear Sirs:

We do not know exactly when we will shear on the Island, or whether we will run the machines or not this fall as it seems to be hard to make up a machine shearing crew here that would stick or have sense. The union men are so cranky that we prefer to shear by hand than to have a union crew, and for our spring shearing we used help from Santa Barbara who were not union men, consequently we got through in better shape than ever before. Should we decide, however, to run the machines, will be glad to let you know, provided you are willing to shear with non-union men if it is necessary for us to run our machines that way.

Yours truly,  
[no signature]

Sheet 315

From Vail & Vickers (employee R.C.) to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, July 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

Sheet 316

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, July 14, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Lamb and sheep sales, Maier Packing Company, Cudahy Packing Company, cattle sales, sheep raising, personnel for SRI, Huntington Beach.

"In regard to another man from Arizona to help on the Island I will try and see what I can do. You know it is hard to get as good a man as you have there, but I think Mac may be able to either supply one or pick one up, as this is the slack time of year. As soon as I can find out, will let you know. I am looking for a cook here and will send one just as soon as I can find one, may be this trip. I have been away to the Warner Ranch, so have not had time to look one up, and Mr. Vickers' time has also been taken up with Huntington Beach matters and he has not had time either. I will, however, attend to the matter as soon as possible." Further correspondence relating to Huntington Beach appears beginning at Sheet 430; WLW, JVV, C.W. Gates and Alex Mills apparently were investors in the Huntington Beach Company.

#### Sheet 317

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, July 15, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Lamb and sheep sales, Maier Packing Company, cook for SRI.

#### Sheet 318

Invoice to L. Sentous Packing Company for sheep, July 18, 1904, typescript.

#### Sheet 319

From JVV, LA to Richard Ellis, Firebaugh, CA, July 19, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 320

From WLW, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, July 23, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Schooner "SRI," transport of lambs and sheep, transport of asphalt.

"My plan now is for you to start on Sunday and go direct to Santa Rosa, load out two or three carloads of lambs and sheep and then go with them to Santa Barbara, from there run up to Goleta and take on all the asphalt you can load in the hold and on both sides of the house, leaving all your deck forward of the house clear for sheep, then run to Santa Rosa and load all the sheep you can carry on the upper deck including the hatches, which would give additional room, and come to San Pedro. You can probably get 300 head on the upper deck without trouble. You can load them pretty tight, as they will be in sight and you can keep them on their feet."

#### Sheet 321

From WLW, LA to Robert Wagner [Wagner?], care Mascarel Hotel, SB, July 23, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Departure from San Pedro, Wagner to be on board. Text for telegram.

#### Sheet 322

Invoice to Maier Packing Company for lambs and sheep, July 25, 1904, typescript.

#### Sheets 323-324

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA, to O.F. Ashburn, Patagonia, Arizona, July 26, 1904, typescript.

Topic. Accounting. Indexing note at head of letter reads "See Vail & G Book 461."

Sheet 325 excised. Number not listed in index.

Sheet 326

From WLV, LA to J.M. Cox, Los Alamos, CA, July 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle feeding, Fithian pasture, rain in Arizona.

Sheet 327

From WLV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, July 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: SRI Company, acquisition of interest in SRI. Transcribed in full.

July 29, [190]4

Hon. Chas. W. Slack  
Nevada Block  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

We received a call from Mr. John Moore [sic] of Santa Barbara today and while here he informed us that a decision had been rendered in the Courts which placed the Island Company in a position that they can give a good deed to their Island interests, which was news to us. Mr. Moore [sic] asked us to make out a statement of the financial condition of the Island account in our books, and also said he would be pleased if we would render him a copy of the statement sent to the Company in San Francisco. Is there a reason why we should or should not comply with his request? As far as Vail & Vickers are concerned, we are willing and ready at all times, as you know, to render statements of our steward-ship in the premises.

We would be much pleased if you would write and give us the legal status of the Island Company's interest at your earliest convenience, and oblige,

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 328

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], August 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Transport of sheep.

Sheet 329

From WLV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, August 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Maier Packing Company, sheep sales, cattle sales, schooner "SRI."

Sheet 330

From WLV, LA to C.A. Storke, SB, August 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle on SRI, acquisition of interests in SRI. Transcribed in full.

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> [190]4

Judge C.A. Storke,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Sir:

When we purchased the interests of Mrs. Miller we understood the cattle on the island at that time belonged to her, or to Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Baldwin, which we know is the case, but there is nothing in our papers to show they were the exclusive owners of the cattle. Will you kindly write us at once and send us such papers, as her agent, that will show these cattle did belong to her exclusively, and in what way she became sole owner. I, of course, remember what you told us and that was, Mrs. Miller was compelled to advance money for running expenses, and she bought these cattle so the estate would have money to run the island. I spoke to you about the matter and you said you would give us such papers at that time but it has been overlooked by all parties interested. If you would kindly attend to this as soon as possible you will oblige,

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 331

From WLV, LA to Ott Hardware Co., SB, August 4, 1904.  
Topic: Request for statement of account.

Sheet 332

From JVV, LA to Hardison-Carse Co., SF, August 4, 1904.  
Topic: Request for copies of invoices.

Sheet 333

Invoice to W. Ealand for sheep, August 5, 1904, typescript.

Sheet 334

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, August 8, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Transport to SRI of WLV, two family members and a Mr. Bruner.

“Mr. Bruner comes down and if I do not come with him, I wish you would wait for me and I will come down as soon as possible. My brother and Russ will come with me.”

Sheet 335

From Alex Mills, LA to Cudahy Packing Company, LA, August 10, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Resolution of a double payment (Ealand and Cudahy had paid for the same lot of sheep).

Sheet 336

From Alex Mills, LA to William S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Co., LA, August 19, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

Sheet 337

From WLV, LA to San Pedro Market, San Pedro, CA, August 20, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Provisions for schooner “SRI.”

Sheet 338

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, August 20, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Provisions for schooner “SRI,” fuel.

Sheets 339-340

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, [Willcox, Arizona], August 26, 1904, manuscript.

Topics: Rain (SRI and Arizona), cattle purchasing.

Sheet 341

From JVV, LA to Basset & Nebeker, Santa Monica, CA, August 29, 1904, manuscript.

Topics: Schooner “SRI,” potential charter for transport of lumber.

Sheet 342

From WLV, LA to Owen H. O’Neil, SB, August 29, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Hunting on SRI (declining request to do so).

Sheet 343

From Alex Mills, LA to Lacy Manufacturing Co., LA, August 30, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Water pipe for SRI.

Sheet 344

From JVV, LA to William Riggs, Willcox, A.T., August 30, 1904, typescript with manuscript postscript.

Topic: Cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 345

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to John Moore [sic], Goleta, CA, August 31, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Grain (market and transport).

#### Sheet 346

From WLW (R.C. signing for him), LA to John Moore [sic], Goleta, CA, September 1, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Grain (market and transport).

#### Sheet 347

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, September 2, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Schooner "SRI," sheep, asphalt, laying of pipe for water line.

#### Sheet 348

From WLW, LA to John Ingram, San Luis Obispo, CA, September 3, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Meeting between Gates (of Vail & Gates) and Ingram, counting of cattle.

#### Sheet 349

From WLW, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, September 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for copy of letter at Sheet 327.

#### Sheet 350

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, [Willcox, Arizona], September 5, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 351

From Alex Mills, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, September 6, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cook for SRI.

"We have to-day paid L.A. Fawn \$3.50 for account of the Chinese cook that we sent over to you one or two months ago and whose name Fawn says is Chingon. This fee is for securing the cook

this employment, and the cook agreed to pay this amount and you will therefore charge the amount to him and deduct same from anything that may be due him in the final settlement.”

#### Sheet 352

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, September 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments on Miller and Baldwin notes).

#### Sheet 353

From JVV, LA to Soto Bros., Willcox, Arizona, September 6, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 354

From JVV, LA to Ben W. Olney, (no place given), September 12, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 355

From JVV, LA to D. Cota, [SB?], September 12, 1904, manuscript.  
Topics: Sheep driving, Cudahy Packing Company.

“Enclosed we hand yours to Cudahy Co. 4. For driving sheep with letter from their Mr. Dunn.”

#### Sheets 356-357

From JVV, LA to Morgan & Crain, Santa Monica, CA, September 13, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Billing for lumber charter, schooner “SRI.”

“Enclosed please find bill for the trip made for you to Point Dume with lumber last week.”

#### Sheet 358

From JVV, LA to Frederick H. Rindge, LA, September 13, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Billing for lumber charter, schooner “SRI.”

“Enclosed please find copy of bill and letter which we have this day sent to your contractors, Morgan & Crain, to Santa Monica, for freighting cargo lumber for your barn . . . ”

#### Sheet 359

From WLV, LA to Hugh F.R. Vail, SB, September 14, 1904, typescript.



Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI, handling parties interested in purchasing SRI. Transcribed in full.

CONFIDENTIAL.

9-14-1904.

Hugh F.R. Vail, Esq.  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Hugh:

Yours of 13<sup>th</sup> just received and in reply would say that I do not think it policy for us to name any price on the Island at the present time. Mr. Vickers and myself have purchased from the different owners the entire property and have 7/8 of it in our name, and an agreement to purchase the other 1/8, which stands in the name of the Santa Rosa Island Company. But this interest has been in litigation over the final settlement of the estate of Eleanor Moore [sic], of Oakland. John Moore [sic], of Goleta, is the principal owner in this estate and he is fighting all the other heirs, and until their troubles are settled the titles cannot be conveyed to us, and on this account do not deem it good judgement to make any price on the Island, nor talk sell until we can deliver the goods. When this is done and we are ready to sell, I will give you first chance to sell my interest and I feel satisfied Mr. Vickers will follow my lead, unless he should decide not to sell at all. As you know, we purchased the property to use in our business and feel that it is worth as much to us as to anyone, and we have gone on carrying out plans and improvements and stocking it as though we never intended to sell. Everyone has his price and we will probably have ours. Mr. Vickers is not here at the time of the writing of this letter, but at the same time I know he would not deem it wise to make any price to anyone at present for the reasons that I have written you, which I hope you will treat confidential, and if your parties insist on some answer you might say that my partner, Mr. Vickers, is not willing to sell at the present time. I hope this letter will reach you in time and I will try to catch you by 'phone tonight.

Believe me,  
Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 360

From WLV, LA to John Moore [sic], Goleta, CA, September 15, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Grain (market and transport), sheep shearing machine, acquisition of interest in SRI (see Sheet 359).

Sheets 361-362

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, [Willcox, Arizona], September 16, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle purchasing.

Sheet 363

From S.P. Vickers, LA to Ed. Valuzule, SB, September 17, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 364

From WLV, LA to Mr. Scott, Manager Cudahy Co., LA, September 20, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for copy of letter at Sheets 365-366.

Sheets 365-366

From WLV, LA to J.E. Dunn, Williams, Arizona, September 20, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Difficulties of gathering sheep on SRI, difficulties in supplying sheep to Cudahy, Maier Packing Company.

Sheet 367

From WLV, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, September 22, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Statement of the business of Vail & Vickers. Transcribed in full.

Sept. 22, 1904

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

San Jose, California.

Gentlemen:

My partner, Mr. Gates, has asked me to make a brief statement of the affairs of Vail & Vickers. In brief, would say that we have purchased the entire Santa Rosa Island and have 7/8 of it conveyed to us. We also have on the Island about 5500 head of cattle and three or four thousand sheep, besides a fine herd of horses to which we are breeding mules. The cattle are one of the finest herds in California and the sheep are also of the best. Our indebtedness amounts to \$75,000 and we have \$15,000 cash on hand. The cattle are probably worth \$125,000, as they are mostly steers, and the sheep are worth about \$3.50 per head. The horses are an unknown quantity as to value.

The value of the Real Estate is variously estimated, in this country, at from \$350,000 to \$1,000,000. But, as we do not expect to sell the Island, we have never cared to put a valuation on the property. We own our own boats, which consist of two schooners of about 200 tons each, one of which cost us, two years ago, about \$19,000.

This statement is brief but is absolutely correct as to indebtedness and the valuations of the property I have tried to give, and a great deal under what we would care to take for it. This statement is simply made for your bank.

The acreage of the Island is 72,000 acres and \$75,000, as you understand, is the total indebtedness of the firm, and that only on the real estate. There is nothing against the personal property whatsoever.

Yours very respectfully,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 368

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, September 22, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

Sheet 369

From JVV, LA to H.A. Morgan, Willcox, Arizona, [September 23, 1904], typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

From JVV, LA to William Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, September 23, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

Sheet 370

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, September 23, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing.

Sheets 371-372

From WLV, LA to John Moore [sic], Goleta, CA, September 26, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Grain (market and transport), asphalt.

Sheet 373

From WLV, LA to Frank Laustelot, SB, September 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Shearing, shearers.

Sheet 374

From WLV (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to Captain F. Widing, c/o Schooner "SRI," September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cook for SRI.

#### Sheet 375

From WLW (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cook for SRI.

#### Sheet 376

From WLW, LA to Captain F. Widing, c/o schooner "SRI," September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI": transport of the Misses Dubbs to SB/Goleta.

#### Sheets 377-378

From WLW, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Shearing and shearers, sheep dipping, cook for SRI, asphalt.

#### Sheet 378

From WLW, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Shearing and shearers, schooner "SRI," asphalt.

#### Sheet 379

From WLW, LA to J.F. More, Goleta, CA, September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Schooner "SRI," travel.

"You will oblige me by saying to Mr. Moore [sic], Jr., that on account of my daughter not being well, we had to postpone our trip on the boat to Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz and Catalina Islands, and as I go East on the 5<sup>th</sup> with the family for a month, it will not be until some time later that I will be able to take the trip, but when we do, we count them as of our party."

#### Sheet 380

From WLW, LA to H.A. Morgan, c/o Norton-Morgan Commercial Co., Willcox, Arizona, September 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Travel, cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 381

From WLW, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, September 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley; request for six-month extension on due date for mortgage payoff), travel.

#### Sheet 382

From WLV, LA to JVV, Texhoma, Oklahoma, October 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (SRI Company and Hamersley). Transcribed in full.

Mr. J.V. Vickers,  
Texhoma, Okla.

Oct. 3/04

Dear Vickers:

I just returned from Frisco. I arrived there Saturday morning and had quite an interview that afternoon with Mr. Eells, and from the way he explained the situation to me I doubt very much whether we can do any safe business with them until some of their law points are decided. It appears that according to the will of Eleanor Moore [sic, several uses], John Moore and Watson would be the owners of the island interests. Watson was President of the company as well as Manager. They were fighting, as you know, the other heirs. When Watson died, Moore was appointed by the Courts to take his place, and he now represents all of the stock until their law suits are decided. It appears that there was other property in the shape of stock which came into Watson's possession. These stocks Watson sold and the proceeds of the sale he gave to his wife. Moore has demanded that they pay this money to the company, or his share to him. Mrs. Watson claims that the stock was a present from the late Eleanor Moore to her husband and refused to pay any money in claims that belong to her husband, and from him it came to her. So you see, the fight is on between Watson and Moore. From what Mr. Eells told me, I believe that he had some arrangements with the attorneys for Mrs. Miller to adjust matters when the Moore and Watson troubles are settled, but as to when this will ever be done is very questionable. Mr. Eells tells me parties had approached them quite recently asking them whether they would be willing to sell their interests if they could make satisfactory arrangements with Vail & Vickers. He gave me to understand that they had been advised by him that he did not think a lease would be probable as long as the friendly relations existed between Vail & Vickers and the parties now in control of their company. The party inquiring, as near as I could get his name, is Robert H. Ronabnb [sic]. This party may have been the one that my cousin Hugh wrote about. When we meet I will explain to you more fully the situation. I wrote a letter [Sheet 381] to Mr. Richards of Santa Barbara in regards to the Hammersley loan, which has not been replied to yet. I, however, heard that Richards was in San Francisco, and made it a point to see him and had a talk with him about the loan. He said that Mr. Hammersley was in Philadelphia and had been a borrower lately, and was not positive whether he wished to continue the loan or not, but would try to fix it as I requested it in my letter to accommodate us, but said, however, that even if he needed the money he would see that we were not hurried in the matter if we required some time.

I hope to be able to leave here on the 5<sup>th</sup>, but from reported washouts our starting may be delayed. I am sorry to hear that you and Gates have been delayed.

Yours truly,  
Walter L. Vail

Sheet 383

From WLV, LA to Soto Bros., Willcox, Arizona, October 3, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle purchasing, rain on SRI.

Sheet 384

From WLV (Alex Mills signing for him), LA to Hugh F.R. Vail, SB, October 3, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company), travel.

"I saw some attorneys for the Santa Rosa Island Incorporation [sic] I wrote you about when I was in San Francisco day-before-yesterday, and they inform me that a party by the name of Robert H. Ronabnb [sic] had called on them trying to get a price on the interest or chance to lease the Santa Rosa, provided they could make satisfactory arrangements with Vail & Vickers. Will you kindly drop me a line on receipt of this, and let me know whether those are the parties you are dealing with. I do not ask this out of curiosity but wish to know whether they were the same ones and were doing this unbeknown to you."

Sheet 385

From Alex Mills, LA to John More, Goleta, CA, October 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Grain (market and transport).

From Alex Mills, LA to Maier Packing Company, LA, October 4, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Freight on sheep.

Sheet 386

From Alex Mills, LA to Charles Lehman, LA, October 7, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Freight on barley.

Sheet 387

From JVV, LA to D.E. Salmon, Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D.C., October 20, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep dipping.

Sheets 388-389

From JVV, LA to WLV, St. Louis, Missouri, October 20, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Acquisition of interests in SRI (SRI Company, Hamersley), wool sales (Dolge), schooner "SRI," shearing and shearers, wool, asphalt, cattle operations and pasturage in Oklahoma Panhandle and Arizona.

Sheet 389

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, October 20, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley, cover note for interest payment).

Sheet 390

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, October 25, 1904, manuscript.  
Topics: Pasturage, need for rain, cattle purchasing. Text for telegram.

Sheet 391

From JVV, LA to WLV, Plainfield, New Jersey, October 25, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Wool, asphalt, schooner "SRI," pasturage on SRI, need for rain, sheep dipping, weaning of calves.

Sheet 392

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, October 25, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Pasturage, need for rain, cattle purchasing.

Sheet 393

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, October 25, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 394

From Alex Mills, LA to Dolge Manufacturing Company, Dolgeville, CA, October 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Payment for wool.

Sheet 395

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, October 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Schooner "SRI," wool and pelts, pasturage and weather at SRI.

Sheet 396

From JVV, LA to WLV, Plainfield, New Jersey, October 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley, loan term extension approved), wool (sales and transport), asphalt, schooner "SRI."

#### Sheet 397

From Alex Mills, LA to JVV, Texhoma, Oklahoma, November 1, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Advertising (in "The Home Seekers' Official Guide of California").

#### Sheet 398

From Alex Mills, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, November 2, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (possible charter).

#### Sheet 399

From Alex Mills, LA to C.A. Storke, SB, November 3, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Abalone fishermen.

#### Sheet 400

From Alex Mills, LA to Tax Collector, Santa Barbara County, SB, November 7, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Property tax.

#### Sheet 401

From Alex Mills, LA to Los Angeles Soap Company, LA, November 9, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Sheep skins (request for payment for same).

#### Sheet 402

From Alex Mills, LA to Edmund M. Burk, County Tax Collector, SB, November 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Property tax.

#### Sheet 403

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, November 14, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley mortgage).

#### Sheet 404

From WLV, LA to C.A. Storke, SB, November 16, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Abalone fishermen.

#### Sheet 405

From JVV, LA to Thomas Pidwell, Pearce, Arizona, November 21, 1904, typescript.



Topic: Cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 406

From WLV, LA to John Ingram, San Luis Obispo, CA, November 21, 1904, typescript.

Topics: 2 head of cattle, interest in acquiring mules, Ingram's move from one ranch to another.

#### Sheet 407

From JVV, LA to William J. Roney, SF, November 21, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Ownership of San Clemente Island.

"We think C.T. Howland & Bro. are the owners of Clemente Island and that the business firm is The Clemente Wool Company." This, of course, was a leasehold, not ownership.

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, November 21, 1904, typescript.

Topics: Weather and pasturage on SRI, cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 408

From Alex Mills, LA to Edmund M. Burk, County Tax Collector, SB, November 23, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Property tax (cover note for payment).

#### Sheet 409

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, [Willcox, Arizona], November 29, 1904, manuscript.

Topics: Weather and pasturage on SRI, cattle purchasing.

#### Sheet 410

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, November 29, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle purchasing. Text for telegram.

#### Sheets 411-413

From JVV, LA to William M. Riggs, [Willcox, Arizona], November 29, 1904, manuscript.

Topics: Cattle purchasing, Soto Brothers, H.A. Morgan, weather and pasturage at SRI. (Vail & Vickers were seeking to defer receiving deliveries until more rain and better grass.)

#### Sheet 414

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, November 30, 1904, manuscript.

Topic: Cattle purchasing. Text for telegram.

Sheet 415

From JVV, LA to C.P. Bailey & Sons, San Jose, CA, November 30, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Offer to sell mohair.

Sheet 416

From JVV, LA to William Riggs, Willcox, Arizona, November 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle purchasing (taking delivery), Soto Brothers, H.A. Morgan.

Sheet 417

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, November 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle purchasing (taking delivery).

Sheet 418

From JVV, LA to Alfred Dolge Mfg. Co., Dolgeville, CA, November 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.

Sheet 419

From Vail & Vickers, LA to Manager, Yacht "Dolphin," H-Street Boat House, San Diego, CA,  
November 30, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Potential charter of schooner "SRI."

"Our Capt. Widing has handed us your card and requested us to write to you regarding our power schooner 'Santa Rosa Island.' As you had some talk with him indicating that you might like to use her from San Diego to Coronado Islands as a pleasure excursion boat, we shall probably have the boat in active service in connection with our business until about Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to arrange to charter her from that time we should like to hear from you as to what you are willing to pay per day for her."

It is unclear as to whether the intended destination was Coronado Island directly off San Diego (the more likely), or Baja California's Islas Coronados.

Sheet 420

From JVV, LA to Soto Brothers, Willcox, Arizona, December 5, 1904, manuscript.  
Topic: Taking delivery of cattle. Text for telegram.

"I shall be there tomorrow morning train ready to work."

Sheet 421

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, December 5, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments to Mrs. Eliza M. Miller and Mrs. Cornelia A. Baldwin).

Sheet 422

From Alex Mills, LA to JVV, Willcox, Arizona, December 7, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Weather, family. Text for telegram.

Sheet 423

From WLW, LA to E.O. Lutz, c/o Star Boat House, San Diego, CA, December 14, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Potential charter of schooner "SRI."

Sheet 424

From WLW, LA to JVV, Pearce, Arizona, December 16, 1904, typescript.  
Topics: Weather, cattle. Text for telegram.

Sheet 425

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P.R.R. Co., LA, December 17, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for payment of freight and feed charges.

Sheet 426

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P.R.R. Co., LA, December 23, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for payment of freight and feed charges.

Sheet 427

From JVV, LA to F.K. Eckley, LA, December 24, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Listing of 2 parcels of LA real estate for sale.

Sheet 428

From WLW, LA to W.D. Watkins, Cholame Grant, San Luis Obispo, CA, December 27, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Answer to Watkins' inquiry seeking to be foreman on the Island.

Sheet 429

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Mohair sales (Dolge).

Sheet 430

From Alex Mills, LA to San Pedro Lumber Co., Huntington Beach, CA, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Mills signed as Assistant Secretary of the Huntington Beach Company.

Sheet 431

Notice of a board meeting of the Huntington Beach Company, signed by C.W. Gates, December 28, 1904, typescript.

From Alex Mills, LA to Bank of Huntington Beach, Huntington Beach, CA, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sale of two lots in Huntington Beach.

Mills signed as Assistant Secretary of the Huntington Beach Company.

Sheet 432

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to Joseph W. Bowman, Recorder, Kings County, Hanford, CA, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Sale by Walter and Margaret Vail of a tract of land in Kings County.

Sheet 433

From WLW, LA to Dr. H.B. Gates, Pine Inn, Carmel, CA, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: "Finsin Light" and X-ray.

Sheet 434

From WLW, LA to Mrs. H.T. Wilmarth, Washington, DC, December 28, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Watercolor painting.

Sheet 435

From Alex Mills, LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent S.P. Company, LA, December 29, 1904, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

Sheet 436

Invoice to the Dolge Manufacturing Company for wool, December 29, 1904, typescript.

Sheet 437

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, December 29, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Christmas present.

Sheets 438-439

From JVV, LA to Dolge Manufacturing Company, Dolgeville, CA, December 30, 1904, typescript.

Topic: Billing for mohair.

Sheets 440-441

From WLV, LA to J.D. Redford, First National Bank, San Jose, CA, January 7, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Application for a loan. Transcribed in full.

January 7, 1905

J.D. Redford, Esq.

c/o First National Bank

San Jose, Cal.

Dear Sir:

At the suggestion of my partner, Mr. C.W. Gates, I make an application to your bank for a loan of \$10,000.00 for the firm of Vail & Vickers, and make you a brief statement of the affairs and financial condition of our firm.

Mr. Vickers and myself are equal partners and own the Santa Rosa Island, seven-eighths of which stands in our names and the other one-eighth is under contract, but not deeded to us. On the realty we are indebted \$73,000.00, and our other indebtedness is \$16,000.00. We have about \$3,000.00 cash on hand, or its equivalent. Our personal property consists of about 6800 head of good cattle, most of which are steers, from 3500 to 4000 head of sheep and about 200 head of horse stock. We estimate our cattle as being worth \$160,000.00, which would be a valuation of about \$20.00 per head and which is low, as the bulk of them are steers and at ordinary seasons we should sell about \$80,000.00 worth of beef a year. The value of the Island, which consists of 72,000 acres, is an unknown quantity, and estimated at from \$350,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. We, however, have not put any price on it, but think the former figure a very safe one. Since my letter to you of Sept. 22, 1904, we have sold quite a number of our sheep and replaced them within the last month with about 1200 head of steers. Our other personal property consists of two boats, one of which has been built within the last two years and cost us about \$19,000.00.

I am conservative in my statements and the indebtedness is possibly somewhat less than I have stated. If you decide to make the loan, please advise us and send such a note as your bank desires us to sign, to run for six months. I am,

Yours very truly,  
Walter L. Vail  
For Vail & Vickers

Sheet 442

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], January 7, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (inspection).

Sheet 443

From Alex Mills, LA to Abstract & Title Guaranty Co., Santa Ana, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Title for lot in Huntington Beach.

Mills signed as assistant secretary for the Huntington Beach Company.

Sheet 444

From Alex Mills, LA to San Pedro Lumber Co., Huntington Beach, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Payment for building supplies.

Mills signed as assistant secretary for the Huntington Beach Company.

Sheet 445

From Alex Mills, LA to W.D. Seely, Huntington Beach, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Sale of lots in Huntington Beach.

Mills signed as assistant secretary for the Huntington Beach Company.

Sheet 446

From Alex Mills, LA to B.W. Ramsey, Huntington Beach, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Sale of lots in Huntington Beach.

Mills signed as assistant secretary for the Huntington Beach Company.

#### Sheet 447

From Alex Mills, LA to Clara A. Rooksby, Whittier, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Street improvement in Huntington Beach.

Mills signed as assistant secretary for the Huntington Beach Company.

#### Sheet 448

From Alex Mills, LA to W.P. Martin, Rialto, CA, [January 17, 1905], typescript.  
Topics: Lemons, accounting for same.

From Alex Mills, LA to Sam Taylor, Warner, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Sheep dip.

#### Sheet 449

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to O.F. Ashburn, Patagonia, Arizona, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cattle shipment.

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to Joseph M. Bowman, Recorder, Kings County, Hanford, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for power of attorney to be recorded.

The power of attorney was from WLV and Margaret R. Vail, to Mills.

#### Sheet 450

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to L.P. Denney, Angiola, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Potential sale of mares.

#### Sheet 451

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to Harry L. Heffner, Vails, Arizona, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Enclosed invoice for stationery, report on cattle.

From W.R. Patterson & Co. (Alex Mills signing), LA to H.H. Benton, Imperial, CA, January 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Cattle sales, accounting for same.

#### Sheets 452-453

From C.W. Gates, LA to WLV, c/o Cook's Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota, January 17, 1905, typescript.

Topics: WLV surgery, rain, Rancho Centinela, cattle shipment, legal matter involving Sonoita, Arizona (presumably land there), John Ingram and his cattle, land deal with one Forkner, sale of Oklahoma cattle to one Ferguson, Warner Ranch, John G. Downey, Henry E. Huntington.

"I was very glad to hear from Mrs. Vail last night that you had had the operation performed and was feeling all right and that everything looked as though it were successful. We all sincerely hope that this will make it so that you will have no further mental and bodily suffering in comparison to what you have had in the past two or three years." This is the first of several letters addressed to WLV in Rochester; it appears that he was under surgical/medical care for a period at the forerunner of the modern Mayo Clinic (established 1919).

Sheet 454

From JVV, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, January 18, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Acknowledgment of receipt of promissory note and check for \$10,000. See Sheets 440-441.

Sheet 455

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], January 18, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Potential cargo hauling on schooner "SRI" (hay from SB to Ensenada, Baja California).

Sheet 456

From JVV, LA to M. Flower, Ensenada, Baja California, January 18, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Potential cargo hauling on schooner "SRI" (hay from SB to Ensenada, Baja California).

Sheet 457

From JVV, LA to WLV, c/o Cook's Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota, January 21, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Statement to SRI Company, Huntington Beach, rain. Transcribed in full.

Jan. 21, 1905.

Walter L. Vail, Esq.  
c/o Cook's Hotel  
Rochester, Minn.

Dear Vail:



Enclosed please find letter from Alex G. Eels regarding Santa Rosa Island statement and their demand that we forward same without further delay. Upon receipt of the letter I asked Mr. Mills to fix up a statement as soon as he could and he has just handed it to me, after getting it as near right as he and I know how. He has deducted from the Island expense the expense of one man at \$45.00 per month, which has been charged to the cattle expense. He has taken the interest out for the reason that if it had not been for the purchase of cattle no money would have had to have been borrowed and no interest paid, so I thought we better take that out ourselves than do it after they should raise the point and require us to do so. Otherwise I think the account is just as it was when last shown to you in pencil. I have just written to Mr. Eels that I have forwarded you a copy of the statement for your approval and will send him the statement immediately upon receiving a wire from you that it meets with your approval. As they seem to be in a big hurry, I suggest that you wire your approval, or if it is, in your opinion, not right, wire me wherein it is incorrect so that we may not keep them waiting any longer than we can possibly help, as it will probably be to our best interests to keep them friendly.

Mr. Jess, Maj. Off, Mr. Gates and myself have been to Huntington Beach this afternoon, and Mr. Jess and the Major expressed themselves as well pleased with the property and with what we are doing in the way of developments and improvements.

We had a hard rain here and there last night and this morning and the country is getting green.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,  
J.V. Vickers

[Manuscript postscript] Eldorado Calves 5376, Bonito [calves] 3200

Sheet 458

From JVV, LA to Alex G. Eels, SF, January 21, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Statement to SRI Company.

Sheet 459

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, January 23, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (cover note for interest payment on Hamersley note).

Sheet 460

From Alex Mills, LA to Alex G. Eels, SF, January 27, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Statement to SRI Company.

Sheet 461

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, January 27, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Tank to be returned to Standard Oil.

Sheet 462

From JVV, LA to Alex G. Eells, SF, February 11, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Statement to SRI Company, "Mildred E."

"The 'Mildred E' is on hand and is for sale, and if you can send us a buyer, it would be greatly appreciated."

Sheet 463

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, care Arlington Hotel, Bakersfield, CA, February 17, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Instruction that Pepper see James Ogden, a superintendent from Buttonwillow, CA. Text for telegram.

Sheet 464

From JVV, LA to WLV, care Golden State Limited, westbound, New Mexico, February 17, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: SRI rain and pasturage. Text for telegram.

"Santa Rosa Island green everything thriving there, all well here."

Sheet 465

From JVV, LA to Visalia Stock Saddle Co., SF, February 17, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Pablo Valenzuela, who had been on SRI and then went to Pantano, Arizona; saddle to go to him.

Pantano is now a ghost town.

Sheet 466

From Alex Mills (for Vail & Gates), LA to Dr. W.I. Seymour, February 20, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Overdue payment on a loan from Vail & Gates to Seymour.

Sheet 467

From Alex Mills, LA to Visalia Stock Saddle Co., SF, February 21, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Pablo Valenzuela, who had been on SRI and then went to Pantano, Arizona; saddle to go to him.

Sheet 468

From JVV, LA to Frank Loustalott, SB, February 24, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 469

From JVV, LA to Edward Valenzuela, SB, February 24, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 470

From F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA] to Edward Marhar, Agent, Wilmington Transportation Co., San Pedro, CA, March 1, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Request for return of anchor.

Sheets 471-472

From JVV, LA to E.G. Field, Los Olivos, CA, March 2, 1905, manuscript.

Topics: Inquiry as to whether Field can gather 5 cowboys to work with Frank Pepper on SRI.

Sheet 473

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, March 4, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (cover note for interest payments on Miller and Baldwin notes).

Sheet 474

From JVV, LA to Edward Valenzuela, SB, March 10, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

Sheet 475

From WLV, LA to Captain William Banning, LA, March 11, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Return of anchor.

Sheet 476

From WLV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, March 11, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Return of anchor.

"I have received a letter from Captain Banning saying that the anchor was returned to you, which should be satisfactory to you. I will now ask you that you make no further mention of this

matter to anyone and consider that it is a closed incident, and out of courtesy to me you will see that nothing further shall be said in the matter."

Sheet 477

From JVV, LA to Shaw & Hunt, SB, March 15, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Order for provisions.

Sheet 478

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], March 18, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: "Mildred E." (maintenance).

Sheet 479

From JVV, LA to Fulmer Grocery Co., Utica, New York, March 22, 1905, typescript.

Topics: SRI, Huntington Beach.

"Your communication received and contents noted. Regarding Santa Rosa, we wish to inform you that it is an island off from Santa Barbara which we use for a cattle, horse and sheep ranch and no portion of it is for sale. We have referred your communication to the Huntington Beach Company, in which we are interested, and you will hear from them regarding their property."

Sheet 480

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, March 27, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for interest payment on loan.

Sheet 481

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, March 27, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Posts and wire to go to SRI, distillate for schooner "SRI," transport of wool (clips belonging both to Capt. William Waters and V & V).

Sheet 482

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, March 27, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Transport of wool (clips belonging both to Capt. William Waters and V & V), request for letter report on Island operations, spaying, cowboys, shearing.

Sheet 483

From JVV, LA to Alfred Dolge Manufacturing Co., March 27, 1905, manuscript.

Topics: Shearing, wool.

Sheet 484

From JVV, LA to Alfred Dolge, President, Alfred Dolge Mfg. Co., Dolgeville, CA, March 29, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Wool (V & V and Waters clips).

Sheet 485

From JVV, LA to E.G. Fields, Los Olivos, CA, March 29, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Need for five cowboys for SRI.

“Mr. Pepper, our foreman, wants nothing but good cowboys who understand the business and know how to ride. We have plenty of horses, but they better bring their saddles along.”

Sheet 486

From JVV, LA to John F. Ingram, San Luis Obispo, CA, March 29, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cowboys for SRI, specifically one B. Olivera.

Sheet 487

From JVV, LA to J.B. Alexander, Manager, Spreckels Bros. Com. Co., LA, March 29, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Schooner “SRI” (potential transport of cement).

Sheet 488

From Vail & Vickers, LA to Standard Oil Co., LA, March 29, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 489

From JVV, LA to Frank Smith, SB, April 3, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Schooner “SRI.” Text for telegram?

Sheet 490

From Vail & Gates (Alex Mills signing), LA to W.S. Pollock, Agent, S.P. Co., LA, April 3, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Freight payment.

Sheet 491

From JVV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, April 5, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company). Transcribed in full.

April 5/05

Charles W. Slack, Esq.,  
Nevada Block, San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Yours of March 14 came duly to hand. Our feeling is that as we acted in good faith in contracting the Santa Rosa Island interest and that the only reason that the trade was not consummated was the inability of the sellers to furnish a complete title, and inasmuch as we have been ready, at any time since said contract was made, to comply as to the completing of the purchase, we feel that we should not be called upon to pay more than an amount equal to what said agreed price would be with reasonable compound interest to date of sellers ability to consummate the trade. We would be quite obliged if you will confer with the sellers and all consider the fairness of our idea in the matter, and let us know the result of said consideration and consultation.

Yours sincerely,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV handwriting]

Dictated by J.V.V.

Sheet 492

From WLV, LA to John F. More, Goleta, CA, April 6, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Purchase of bulls, shipment to Arizona, cattle disease and quarantine, acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company), cattle feed.

Sheet 493

From V & V, LA to Union Hardware & Metal Co., LA, April 8, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 494

From JVV, LA to J.F. More, Goleta, CA, April 19, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Instruction not to hold cows and calves for Vail & Vickers, visit to More by WLV, acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company).

Sheet 495

From JVV, LA to WLV, Rochester, Minnesota, April 18, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Spaying, dehorning, cowboys, William Ealand, pork sales, schooner "SRI" (cleaning), J.F. More.

Sheet 496

From WLV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, April 12, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company).

"In regard to our making an offer for the Island interest, I am, as far as I am concerned, willing to pay the price named in our letter, with interest compounded semi-annually, at say not to exceed five per cent. I do not make this as a formal offer, but know that Mr. Vickers is willing to do what we jointly wrote you."

Sheet 497

From JVV, LA to Baker Brothers, Hachita, New Mexico, April 20, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Prospective purchase of cattle (in fall).

Sheets 498-501

Cover notes for bill payments, April 19 or 21, 1905, typescript. Recipients as follows:

Standard Oil Company, LA

Eugene F. Rogers, SB

Shaw & Hunt, SB

Red Cross Drug Company, SB

San Pedro Market, San Pedro, CA

H. Cole, San Pedro, CA

W.A. Daborn, Terminal [Island], CA

Sheet 502

From JVV, LA to H.A. Morgan, Manager, [Norton-Morgan Commercial Co., Willcox, Arizona], April 21, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Prospective purchase of cattle (in fall).

Sheet 503

From Alex Mills, LA to Tax Collector, Santa Barbara County, SB, April 21, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Property tax.

Sheet 504

From Alex Mills, LA to Jarrett T. Richards, Esq., SB, April 22, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (Hamersley, interest payment).

Sheet 505

From JVV, LA to Captain F. Widing, San Pedro, CA, April 22, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (cleaning).

Sheets 506-507

From JVV, LA to WLV, c/o Gardiner & Vail, New York, April 22, 1905, typescript with manuscript postscript.  
Topics: Maier Packing Company, cattle sales, sheep sales, pricing, potential sale of horses to a Nebraska firm, sales of lots in Huntington Beach, schooner "SRI" (cleaning).

Sheet 508

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], April 24, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (potential haul of poles from Redondo or San Pedro to SB).

Sheet 509

From JVV, LA to William Harvey, Carpinteria, April 24, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Pilings for SRI wharf.

Sheet 510

From JVV, LA to WLV, [New York], April 24, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company).

Sheet 511

From JVV, LA to WLV [New York], April 24, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Sale of wool to Dolge Manufacturing.

Sheet 512

From JVV, LA to C.J. Lehman, [LA], April 27, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (potential haul of poles from San Pedro to SB).

Sheet 513

From Alex Mills, LA to B.C. Benigan, Rose Hotel, Ventura, CA, April 28, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Wool sales.



Sheet 514

Invoice to Alfred Dolge Manufacturing Company for wool, May 1, 1905, typescript.

Sheet 515

From JVV, LA to Western Supply Co., [SF], May 1, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (request for quotation on rope and cable).

Sheets 516-518

From JVV, LA to WLV, [New York?], May 2, 1905, manuscript.

Topics: WLV health and recovery, JVV conversation with J.F. More (goes to acquisition of SRI Company interest), cattle pricing, Hauser Packing Company, Huntington Beach (sale of lots).

Sheet 519

From V & V, LA to Gutierrez Drug Store, SB, May 2, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 520

From JVV, LA to Ellwood Cooper, Goleta, CA, May 5, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Pilings for SRI wharf.

Sheet 521

From JVV, LA to F.F. Wilson Dibblee, May 5, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Declining offer of bulls for sale.

Sheet 522

From V & V, LA to Standard Oil Co., LA, May 6, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 523

From JVV, LA to WLV, Cook's Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota, May 12, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Sale of steers, cows, sheep and lambs to Maier Packing Company. Text for telegram.

Sheets 524-525

From Alex Mills, LA to Maier Packing Company, LA, May 12, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Billing for steers, cows, sheep and lambs.

Sheet 526

From V & V, LA to U.S. Long Distance T. & T. Co., LA, May 13, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 527

From JVV, LA to WLV, c/o Cook House, Rochester, Minnesota, May 15, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company), Maier Packing Company, cattle sales, sheep sales.

Sheet 528

From JVV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, May 15, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company), WLV health and recovery.

"[WLV] is in Minnesota under the doctors' care, but is doing nicely, and I hope will be with us again perfectly well."

Sheet 529

From Alex Mills, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, May 19, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Maier Packing Company, cattle sales, sheep sales, livestock transport, schooner "SRI."

"Before Mr. Vickers left, he instructed me to write you that on next shipment you were not to load over 75 grown cattle and 345 head of sheep and lambs. There were seven head of sheep smothered in the last shipment on account of being too closely loaded."

Sheet 530

Invoice to Maier Packing Company for sheep and lambs, May 22, 1905, typescript.

Sheet 531

From JVV, LA to WLV, Cook's Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota, May 26, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Cattle pricing, Maier Packing Company. Text for telegram.

Sheet 532

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Company, SF, May 26, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Schooner "SRI" (request for quotation on rope).

#### Sheets 533-534

From JVV, LA to WLV, [Rochester, Minnesota], May 26, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Maier Packing Company, cattle pricing, cattle sales, sheep sales, WLV recovery.

#### Sheets 535-536

From JVV, LA to Ed. Valenzuela, [SB], May 26, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Shearing and shearers.

#### Sheet 537

From JVV, LA to Stearns Wharf Co., [SB], May 26, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Condition of wharf.

"Is the old wharf at your place in shape to unload & drive cattle over? If not when do you think it will be?"

#### Sheet 538

From JVV, LA to Fred Gibson, Santa Ynez, CA, May 26, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Shipment of cattle.

#### Sheets 539-540

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, May 29, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Cattle sales, Maier Packing Company, schooner "SRI."

#### Sheet 541

From JVV, LA to WLV, [Rochester, Minnesota?], May 29, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Cover note for copy of letter to Frank Pepper, sheep and lamb sales.

#### Sheet 542

From Alex Mills, LA to J.F. Hixson, Agent, Southern Pacific Ry. Co., LA, May 29, 1905, typescript.

Topics: Inquiry as to a charge, Maier Packing Company.

#### Sheets 543-545

Cover notes for bill payments, May 31, 1905, typescript. Recipients as follows:

H. Cole, San Pedro, CA

Joseph A. Weldt & Co., San Pedro, CA

San Pedro Market, San Pedro, CA  
Stearns Wharf Co., SB  
F.E. Nelson, SB  
Tufts-Lyon Arms Co., LA

Sheet 546

From Alex Mills, LA to Maier Packing Co., LA, June 2, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Billing for cattle and sheep.

Sheets 547-548

From JVV, LA to WLV, (no place given), June 5, 1905, manuscript.  
Topics: Maier Packing Company, cattle sales, sheep sales, WLV recovery.

"Yours of 1<sup>st</sup> at hand; I think from it you missed mine to Rochester."

"I am very much pleased that you are so well, and so soon to be home."

Sheet 549

From Alex Mills, LA to J.F. Hixson, Agent, Southern Pacific Ry. Co., LA, June 5, 1905, typescript.  
Topics: Freight payment, request for further information on advance charges.

Sheet 550

From Alex Mills, LA to San Francisco Savings Union, SF, June 5, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interests in SRI (interest payments on Miller and Baldwin notes).

Sheet 551

Invoice to Maier Packing Co. for cattle, sheep and lambs, June 5, 1905, typescript.

Sheet 552

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, June 6, 1905, typescript with manuscript postscript.  
Topics: Workers for SRI, Pepper purchase of Huntington Beach lots. Transcribed in full.

June 6, 1905

Mr. Frank Pepper,  
Santa Rosa Island,  
c/o Captain Widing, San Pedro, Cal.

Dear Frank:

Yours of June 4<sup>th</sup>, and previously May 31<sup>st</sup>, both received and carefully noted. I don't know whether I will be able to send any workers over by the boat or not. It seems almost impossible to get anybody here to do farm work. You may have to run over to Santa Barbara and get what you need there.

With kind regards and best wishes,  
Yours truly,  
Vail & Vickers [in JVV hand]

[In JVV hand] H.B. papers rec'd. As you insist on paying for the lots we charge your a/c with the 430, less 5% 21.50 = 408.50 and order deed and abstract. Check enc. Very truly, J.V. Vickers

Sheet 553

From JVV, LA to Western Repair & Supply Co., SF, June 7, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Schooner "SRI" (price of rope).

Sheets 554-555

From JVV, LA to Maier Packing Co., LA, June 9, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Billing for cattle and sheep.

Sheet 555

From V & V, LA to Standard Oil Co., LA, June 9, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheets 556-557

From JVV, LA to J.A. Rockfellow, Esq., Tombstone, Arizona, June 10, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Land jumping at Vail & Gates ranch, Mescal Springs, Cochise County, Arizona.

Sheet 558

Bill to Maier Packing Company, May 31, 1905, typescript.

From V & V, LA to Anderson & Chandler Co., LA, June 12, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 559

From Alex Mills, LA to J.F. Hixson, Agent, Southern Pacific Co., LA, June 12, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

#### Sheet 560

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, [SRI], June 13, 1905, manuscript.

Topics: Employment agency fees (employees A.L. Spencer and Peter Burns), sheep raising, Pepper purchase of Huntington Beach lots.

“We have your lots deed here.”

#### Sheets 561-562

Cover notes for bill payments, June 12, 1905, typescript. Recipients as follows:

San Pedro Market, San Pedro, CA

Western Union Telegraph Co., LA

Dr. H.D., Fenimore, LA

Hummel Bros. & Co., LA

#### Sheet 563

From WLW, LA to J.F. More, Goleta, CA, June 13, 1905, typescript.

Topic: WLW visit to More.

#### Sheet 564

From JVV, LA to Capt. F. Widing, [San Pedro, CA], June 15, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Pork buyer to go to Island.

#### Sheet 565

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, [SRI], June 15, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Pork buyer to go to Island.

#### Sheet 566

Invoice to Maier Packing Company, June 12, 1905, typescript.

#### Sheet 567

From JVV, LA to Frank Pepper, SRI, June 17, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Accounting.

#### Sheet 568

Invoice to Maier Packing Company, June 19, 1905, typescript.

From V & V, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, June 19, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for interest payment.

Sheet 569

From Alex Mills, LA to J.F. Hixson, Agent, Southern Pacific Co., LA, June 19, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for freight payment.

Sheet 570

From Alex Mills, LA to Ben E. Ward, County Assessor Los Angeles County, LA, June 19, 1905, typescript.

Topics: WLV poll tax, assessment of taxes on schooner "SRI."

Sheet 571

From V & V, LA to Maier Packing Co., LA, June 22, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note and invoice for cattle.

Sheet 572

From JVV, LA to William Harvey, Carpinteria, June 23, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Pilings for SRI wharf.

Sheet 573

Cover notes for bill payments, June 23 and 24, 1905, typescript. Recipients as follows:

William Ealand, SB

Hotel Mascarel, SB

Sheet 574

From Alex Mills, LA to Maier Packing Co., LA, June 24, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Billing question.

Sheet 575

Invoice to Maier Packing Co., June 26, 1905, typescript.

Sheet 576

From JVV, LA to J.N. Parker, (no place given), June 26, 1905, manuscript.  
Topic: Prospective purchase of cattle (yearling steers).

Sheet 577

From WLV, LA to Charles W. Slack, SF, June 27, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company). Transcribed in full.  
June 27, 1905

Hon. Chas. W. Slack,  
Nevada Block,  
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Sir:

I have just returned to-day from the country and my attention has been called to the matter of computing the interest on our original offer for the one-eighth interest now owned by Santa Rosa Island Co.

My partner, Mr. Vickers, has read my letter to you of April 12, 1905 and concurs with me in the same, as an offer. Our computation of the interest from June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1901 to June 29, 1905 at 5%, compounded semi-annually amounts to \$36,628.25.

Please excuse the delay in this matter, but on account of my absence it has been left until my return.

Believe me,  
Yours very truly,  
[no signature]

Sheet 578

From WLV, LA to John More, Goleta, CA, June 27, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Acquisition of interest in SRI (SRI Company). Cover note for copy of above letter.

Sheet 579

From V & V, LA to Standard Oil Co., LA, June 28, 1905, typescript.  
Topic: Cover note for bill payment.

Sheet 580



From Alex Mills, LA to Dick T. Morgan, Receiver, U.S. Land Office, Woodward, Oklahoma, June 28, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Claim for a parcel of land in Tulare County, CA.

Sheet 581

From Alex Mills, LA to First National Bank, San Jose, CA, June 28, 1905, typescript.

Topic: Cover note for \$10,000 loan payoff.

Sheets 582-585

Invoices to Maier Packing Company, June 28-July 15, 1905, typescript.

Sheet 586

From JVV, LA to H.C. Graves, Terminal [Island], CA, July 17, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Unknown.

Sheet 587

From JVV, LA to Mr. Moulton, (no place given), July 17, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Offer to Moulton of sheep for sale.

Sheet 588

From JVV, LA to William? Nelson, Long Beach, CA, July 19, 1905, manuscript.

Topic: Offer of "Mildred E" for sale.